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Shtreiml at NAC page 10

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Two-state solution possible says Peace Now director

By Abigail Bimman

The general director of Israel's largest non-governmental peace body believes a two-state solution is the most viable choice for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Peace Now's Yariv Oppenheimer addressed about 30 students and community members at the University of Ottawa as part of Israel Week 2008, a celebration of Israel's diamond anniversary organized by the Israel Awareness Committee at Carleton University and the Jewish Student's Association of Ottawa.

"Things are changing in Israel all the time," Oppenheimer said. "I'm not going to say it's 100 per cent, but there is a very good chance we will have peace. Public opinion [in Israel] supports this."

Oppenheimer used a map of the West Bank to explain comprehensively why, to him, a two-state solution is the answer.

First, he divided the Zionist dream into three basic tenets: the need for Israel to be a Jewish state, a democratic state and the physical need for it to occupy Israeli soil.

Maintaining the status quo is not a democratic answer, Oppenheimer said, as Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza don't have equal rights with Israelis. One proposed solution is to give Palestinians equal rights and become a binational state — but this means Israel would no longer be a Jewish state.

Oppenheimer said the two-state option was the only solution left, but quickly noted that it wasn't going to be easy.

"It is a compromise, and it is a painful compromise," he said.

He said the Israeli government supports the two-state solution and the biggest problem is deciding how it will be carried out. This

becomes increasingly difficult to resolve as the conflict moves from political to religious.

"There are extremists on both sides who are very committed that we should not have a compromise," who say that "according to God, we don't have the authority to give up one inch of land to the Palestinians."

Oppenheimer said some Palestinians believe this as well, often using the same sentence translated from Hebrew to Arabic.

An example of a tricky situation is how to deal with the old city of Jerusalem.

Oppenheimer's view is that everyone should be able to fulfil his or her desire to pray and have safe access to religious sites.

"Leave it as a religious place and not a political statement," he said. "You don't need a flag there."

(Continued on page 2)



Yariv Oppenheimer, general director of Peace Now, points to a map of the West Bank to describe his two-state vision for peace.

(Photo: Abigail Bimman)

Delegation presses for freedom for Canadian Jew jailed in India

By Bram Eisenthal

(JTA) — Canadian Jewish leaders have taken up the effort to free a Canadian-Israeli businessman incarcerated in an Indian prison infested with rats and scorpions for an expired visa violation.

Saul Itzhayek, 42, an electronic components buyer, was arrested last May during a business trip to the region.

Jewish leaders say the prison

sentence, even if technically lawful, is unfair. They also point to Itzhayek's deteriorating health — family members say he has lost some 65 pounds since being sent to Motahari prison and is suffering from severe depression — as a reason for his urgent release.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, a former justice minister of Canada, led a delegation to Ottawa in late January to press for Itzhayek's release.

The group, which included several rabbis, as well as a Catholic priest and a Protestant minister, met with Helena Guergis, Canada's secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Rajamani Lakshmi Narayan, India's high commissioner to Canada.

Cotler, who is also a prominent international human rights lawyer, said he considers Itzhayek's arrest a "form of entrapment" and "hard-

ly criminal conduct worthy of this penalty."

Cotler also said he called on the Indian government "to invoke any executive remedy they deem appropriate." He added that Narayan acknowledged to him that Itzhayek was not being accused of anything other than entering India with an expired visa.

Itzhayek had gone to Nepal to source a specialty component when

Indian authorities contacted him to say they had seized a car, supposedly stolen, that belonged to his business associate and containing some of Itzhayek's travel documents.

The police asked Itzhayek to cross the border to sign for his belongings. Though his visa had expired, Itzhayek was told he would be allowed to enter and leave the country without a prob-

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Family hopes effort will secure freedom for Saul Itzhayek

(Continued from page 1)

lem. But Itzhayek was arrested in India and sentenced to three years in prison for a visa violation.

Itzhayek is married and has two teenage children. His wife, Marina, has been able to speak with her husband occasionally by phone.

Itzhayek's sister, Sylvia, recalled receiving "a frantic call" from her sister-in-law in early June informing her of the arrest on May 29.

"It was a big shock," Sylvia Itzhayek told JTA.

"I called the prison and tried speak to him, but no one spoke English except one man who was only there in the middle of the night our time. So, in the beginning, whenever I would call, they would hang up. It was very frustrating."

The family continues to hope

that the high-level effort to free Itzhayek, which has been mirrored on the grass-roots level, will bear fruit.

Jewish leaders want to know why Itzhayek, who has lived in Montreal since moving here from Israel in 1968, received such a harsh punishment. In many countries, such a minor offence would result, at worst, in deportation.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, co-president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, joined Cotler in the Ottawa delegation and called what happened to Itzhayek "an unfortunate thing."

"There does not appear to be anti-Semitism prevalent between India and world Jewry," Rabbi Bulka said. "But, because of his frail health, it is imperative that they [the Indian authorities] act quickly. Otherwise, his life may be

placed in danger. By the time he comes back, he may be only a shadow of his former self and may not be able to recover. That is our main concern."

Montreal Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, who was also in Ottawa as part of the delegation, said the effort to free Itzhayek has Jewish roots.

"As a rabbi, my first feelings were that this unjust captivity is an affront to the Jewish spirit," he said. "We know slavery, we know captivity and, at the Passover seder, we call for freedom. Does Saul deserve any less?"

"When an interfaith group comes together to support a cause," said Rabbi Steinmetz, "you know that something more than politics is at hand. We are talking about a moral issue, about justice for an innocent man."



Marina Itzhayek, left, the wife of a Canadian-Israeli businessman being held in an Indian prison, and his sister Sylvia Itzhayek are hoping the efforts to free him will be successful.

(JTA Photo: Bram Eisenthal)

Activist predicts catastrophe if peace process fails

(Continued from page 1)

Oppenheimer is confident peace is possible, but it will take longer than the one-year term President Bush laid out during his recent visit to the Middle East.

While the United States, the European Union and the

United Nations are ready to support a peace treaty in Israel, Oppenheimer said more powerful support comes from the moderate Arab countries that make up the Arab League.

"Once there is a solution between Israel and Palestine, the Arab League will

be immediately ready to recognize Israel and have peace with Israel," Oppenheimer said.

While his speech was brief, he opened the floor to questions for almost an hour afterwards. Some audience members clearly disagreed with Oppenheimer's politics and proposed solution.

"I know some things I am saying sound naive, and clear and simple, and it's not like that," Oppenheimer concluded.

"I'm not sure our solution is going to win, but, if it doesn't, I'm sure there is going to be a catastrophe."

Oppenheimer's lecture was co-sponsored by the Canadian Friends of Peace Now and the Israel Awareness Committee at the University of Ottawa.

Around the Jewish world

Initiative linking researchers on anti-Semitism

(JTA) Yale University launched an international association to link researchers on anti-Semitism. The International Association for the Study of Anti-Semitism, to be headquartered at Yale in New Haven, Conn., is an outgrowth of the Yale Initiative on the Study of Anti-Semitism.

The launch was announced at the Global Forum on Anti-Semitism held recently in Jerusalem. Charles Small, director of the Yale initiative, told the assembly that the new association wants to bring together scholars from institutes around the world to ease the exchange of information and promote research. Small said he hoped the association would help "organize and harness the expertise on this subject matter," especially "during these times when some national leaders and social movements call openly for the destruction of Israel and its people in the most heinous manner, while other leaders and scholars in other parts of the world do not want to fathom this rapidly changing reality."

Membership is open to scholars and professionals in the field, research institutions,

universities and their departments and associations with active scholars exploring related fields.




British Muslims eye better ties with Jews

(JTA) Muslim leaders in the United Kingdom issued an unprecedented appeal to world Jewry for closer relations. In a letter generated by the Muslim-Jewish study center at the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths in Cambridge, England, Muslim scholars acknowledged the gap in understanding that exists today between Jews and Muslims, and asked Jewish leaders to help them bridge it.

Sheik Michael Mumisa, a lecturer at the Woolf Institute, described the letter as the first in modern times sent to the Jewish community with the backing of scholars and Muslim leaders. "The message in this letter conveys to the Jewish community a genuine desire for mutual respect, for dialogue and deeper understanding," he said. The letter to the world's Jewish community, Mumisa said, is "a call for positive and constructive action that aims to improve Muslim-Jewish relations."

The letter notes that Judaism and Islam share core doctrinal beliefs, the most important of which is strict monotheism. That theological conjoining should in itself dictate greater communication, the signatories urged.

The letter's aim, according to the Woolf Institute, is to show that Muslims are willing to engage in dialogue with the Jewish community about issues other than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.


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Lenora and Evan Zellkovitz – event co-chairs, Jordan Loves – Mitzvah Day drawing contest winner receiving a plaque to commemorate his new Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation fund opened in his name, Harold Feder – vice chair of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, and Adrian Harewood – Mitzvah Day's honorary chair.

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ADL leader says Obama has settled Farrakhan issue

By Ron Kampeas
and Ben Harris

WASHINGTON (JTA) – The head of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) says it's time to pack away the Farrakhan fears when it comes to Barack Obama.

"He was very clear," said Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director, describing the response of the Illinois senator who was asked in a debate February 26 about the public praise he received from the Nation of Islam leader.

"He distanced himself and condemned it and rejected it," Foxman said. "What more do we want? On that issue we should move on."

The Farrakhan question arose as Obama has sought to aggressively deflect falsehoods and distortions disseminated on the Internet describing the Democratic presidential contender as everything from a secret Muslim to being surrounded by anti-Israel advisers.

His campaign has blitzed Jewish voters with fact

sheets attempting to rebut the attacks, and Obama himself has twice personally reached out to Jews – once in a conference call with the Jewish media and in a private meeting with Cleveland Jewish leaders.

Steve Rabinowitz, a Washington political consultant and a backer of Obama's rival, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, praised Obama's ringing denunciations of Farrakhan.

Rabinowitz noted, however, that Obama was likely to be dogged about his relationship with his pastor, Jeremiah Wright, whose church has praised Farrakhan. Wright has travelled with Farrakhan to Libya.

"I think he's been handling Farrakhan very well, Israel very well, and the Pastor Wright stuff not poorly, but just less well," he said.

"He has been doing reasonably well with all this garbage short of cutting his ties with his pastor," Rabinowitz said, adding that urging such a step would be a



American presidential hopeful Barack Obama addresses AIPAC on March 2, 2007, in Chicago. (Source: AIPAC)

"bissel chutzpahdick (a little presumptuous) of anyone to ask."

The exchange over Farrakhan occurred when Obama and Clinton met in Cleveland for the 20th debate in the run for the Democratic nomination for

support that I sought. And we're not doing anything, I assure you, formally or informally with Minister Farrakhan."

Russert continued to challenge the candidate, noting that Obama's pastor, Wright, had expressed admiration for Farrakhan. Obama countered by noting his pro-Israel record, his calls on the African-American community to confront anti-Semitism within its ranks and his strong support among Jews in Illinois and nationwide.

Russert appeared ready to leave the matter when Clinton interjected, noting that she had rejected the support of the New York Independence Party in her 2000 run for the Senate because a leader, Lenora Fulani, had made anti-Semitic comments.

"I made it very clear that I did not want their support," she said. "I rejected it. I said that it would not be anything I would be comfortable with and it looked as though I might pay a price for that."

Clinton said "there's a difference between denouncing and rejecting," and that, although she believed Obama was sincere, "we've got to be even stronger."

Obama did not see the difference, but added, "I'm happy to concede the point. And I would reject and denounce." Clinton responded "Excellent," spurring the

biggest applause of the evening.

Ann Lewis, a senior adviser to Clinton, credited her candidate's leadership in bringing Obama around to a fuller denunciation of Farrakhan.

"I thought that exchange last night was a striking example of a point we have made before in the campaign — that on issues of concern to the Jewish community, Hillary is a leader," Lewis said. "In the course of that two-minute exchange, she got Senator Obama to move from what was initially a less than full rejection of Minister Farrakhan to a full rejection. It was one of those moments of leadership."

While Foxman said Obama had dealt with the Farrakhan issue, he suggested the issue of the relationship with Wright was less likely to disappear. Foxman said he was unsatisfied with Obama's explanation at the meeting with Cleveland's Jews, in which Obama likened his pastor to a slightly dotty uncle who occasionally embarrasses.

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Media and government relations expertise available to agencies

Editor's note: JFO Chair Jonathan Freedman has arranged to share his column, on occasion, with the chairs or presidents of the community's major beneficiary agencies or committees so they can provide some insight into their operations.

I have some interesting news for all of the social service agencies under the Jewish Federation of Ottawa umbrella. There is a small group of experienced communicators at your disposal. All you have to do is ask.

As chair of the Federation's Communications and Community Relations Committee, I have assembled a group of people who have been involved in the communications, advocacy and dialogue game for many, many years and who are volunteering their time and their considerable expertise to the community.

Along with Francie Greenspoon, the director of communications for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, they are great resources for all of the organizations under the Federation umbrella and there are any



Federation Report

Jeff Polowin
Communications
& Community Relations

numbers of ways in which this committee can play a role in your agency.

Media relations skills are increasingly important in creating or increasing your agency's profile. Whether the motivation is fundraising or making more people in the community aware of services, effective use of the media is a cost effective means of communicating with your target audience.

However, the reality is that most organizations cannot afford to invest in that expertise on a full-time basis. That's where we come in. The members of this committee have worked with, and for, the media. They understand how the media works and how you can use it for the benefit of your

organization and your membership. Take advantage of this community resource.

A number of agencies did take advantage of that expertise late last year when we brought them together for a three-hour media training session that addressed issues of how to respond to the media and how to use the media to reach a target audience.

If you missed that session, and are interested in learning how to deal with the media, we are planning another media training session on April 2 at 7:00 pm. Call Francie Greenspoon for more information and to confirm your intention to join us that evening.

Advocacy is another skill with critical importance to all social service agencies. The ability to understand and deal with all levels of government sometimes means the difference between life and death for many organizations.

Some of the members of this committee do this for a living. Whether it is the continuing, non-stop hunt for government funding, the opportunity to stress a specific

point with one of the decision-makers, or a request or proposal, the people around the table at our committee meetings have been there. They have learned through osmosis the right and wrong ways to approach elected representatives. Their experiences and lessons learned are there for your benefit.

Communications planning is another area of expertise that is difficult to find when the administration costs are kept low. Agencies sometimes need senior strategic thinking but cannot afford to have that kind of expertise on staff at all times. But, when the need is there, it is a critical need. Once again, the people on the Communications and Community Relations Committee do that for a living and are prepared to share their expertise with the agencies.

Our communications, advocacy and media relations skills are here for the asking. Just pick up the phone and call Francie Greenspoon at 613-798-4696, ext. 255, or e-mail her at fgreenspoon@jewishottawa.com and we will do what we can to provide you with the tools you need.

Jewish continuity: no one answer fits this community

The funeral director was polite but wanting an answer.

"Rabbi," he said, "we have another special circumstance. Mr. X recently died in a foreign land. He was born Jewish, has had very little to do with the organized Jewish community, but wanted to have a memorial service with a Jewish flavour."

I asked why. If he lived a non-observant, non-public Jewish life, why does his non-Jewish wife want to have him remembered with a service with a Jewish "flavour" to it?

The funeral director was shocked. To his way of thinking, someone born Jewish is always Jewish. But it would be rare, in this city, for a funeral such as this to be held. Oh yes, the real catch in this scenario was that the deceased and his wife wanted the body cremated.

I spoke to his wife.

"Rabbi," she said, "he was Jewish. His friends knew him as Jewish. Why would the community deny him his identity?"

The parents were polite.

The prospective bride and groom were also polite. One was Jewish and one was not. They wanted to be married under a *chuppah* and they wanted a rabbi to officiate. They did not comprehend why the Jewish community had no way to recognize this fact of 21st century Jewish life. They reminded me that, in Canada, nearly 40 per cent of all couples do not marry at all, and that nearly 50 per cent of all Jews who do marry choose a non-Jewish partner. They were as insistent as the family in the previous scenario. Why should ancient ritual behaviours be inhibitors to families wanting any kind of connection to the Jewish community?

The son had a simple request.

He wanted *Taharah* performed for his



From the pulpit

Rabbi
Steven Garten
Temple Israel

deceased mother, but he also wanted the funeral held at Hillel Lodge. His father, an Alzheimer's patient, was a resident there. His mother and father had resided there for years. It seemed like the most logical way to honour his mother and father. Unfortunately, the Chevra Kadisha would not honour his request. He asked me why there are so many ways the community makes it difficult for some to feel part of the Jewish world.

All three of these stories have much in common. We speak of our communal desire to insure the continuity of the Jewish people, but, when push comes to shove, we have very narrow parameters for continuity.

Our Jewish world is no longer monolithic. Our Jewish Ottawa is no longer monolithic. While we have many who value the observance of traditional mitzvot, and their commitment should be honoured, we also have many in our community who are searching for non-traditional answers to affiliation. There are many who need access roads to the peoplehood of Israel. There are many for whom the tradition appears to be a roadblock to continuity. Is our community, is our future, better insured every time we tell a couple that it's our way or the highway? Is the sanctity of death enhanced when rules become roadblocks to sacred farewells?

Is our future preserved when we explore the issues of Jewish poverty in a narrow perspective, such as a kosher food bank? Are

there not Jewish hungry who might not be recipients of our care and do not keep kosher?

If we are to walk the talk of Jewish continuity, we need to explore alternatives to the traditional paths.

As a community we should find *tzedakah* opportunities within the general community for those who believe *tzedakah* is not limited to the Jewish world. I recognize that there are opportunities offered by the non-Jewish world for "good deeds." However, it is a very different message if, as identified-Jews, we act out our commitment in public.

We should find and offer alternative religious practices as exemplified by the renewal movement or the expanding movement of *Musar* study.

We, as a community, should support and

encourage as many alternative entry points as possible for those searching for even a modicum of connectivity. I recognize that there are many outstanding synagogues in town and there are wonderful Jewish outreach programs in Ottawa. But what we could use are more communally supported, small, alternative approaches that do not bear the imprint of normalcy, of the status quo.

Rabbi Tarfon is quoted often when it comes to impossible endeavours. In the *Mishnah*, he is purported to have said, "Stay the course, even if it takes an inordinate amount of time."

What we should do is heed his wisdom and stay the course while offering as many varied approaches as possible. Surely, no one answer to the question of Jewish continuity fits this community any more.

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Canada

Poll shows attitudes toward Jews are distinct in Quebec

I've just seen some recent national polling results on attitudes toward Jews that are encouraging for most of Canada but distinctly dismaying when it comes to Quebec, the province I spent most of my life in.

The poll was commissioned by the Montreal-based Association for Canadian Studies and was conducted by the Quebec firm Léger Marketing in late-January and early-February. Léger surveyed 1,500 people across the country, including 500 in Quebec. The margin of error was plus/minus 3.5 per cent 19 times out of 20.

Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with the statement, "Jews want to impose their customs and traditions on others."

In Quebec, 41 per cent of those surveyed agreed with statement, while an equal number disagreed. As many Quebecers as not, in 2008, seem to think that Jews want to impose their customs and traditions on the rest of the population.

That rather depressing poll result in Quebec does not apply to the rest of the country, where only 11 per cent of respondents – a comparatively insignificant number, probably less than those who think that Elvis is still alive – agreed with the statement. The overwhelming majority



Acting Editor

Michael Regenstreif

outside Quebec, 74 per cent, do not think Jews want to impose our customs and traditions on everyone else.

While there may have been a negative premise built into that first statement, there certainly wasn't in the next statement, "Jews want to participate fully in society."

Only 31 per cent of Quebecers surveyed agreed that Jews aspire to full participation in society. Significantly more Quebecers, 41 per cent, think that Jews do not want to be full participants in the wider society.

Again, the dismaying results in Quebec do not apply to the rest of Canada, where another overwhelming majority, 74 per cent, think that Jews do want to participate fully and only 10 per cent of those surveyed think they don't.

"Jews have made an important contribution to society," was a third statement that respondents were asked to agree or disagree with.

In Quebec, only 41 per cent agreed with the statement, while 74 per cent agreed in the rest of Canada.

When it comes to attitudes toward Jews, Quebec is, indeed, a distinct society.

Although the survey focussed specifically on attitudes toward Jews, I'd be willing to bet that substituting most other minorities would have netted similar results.

The poll was conducted in the wake of the so-called *reasonable accommodation* hearings that dominated the news in Quebec for much of last year. Commissioners Gérard Bouchard, an historian and brother of former Parti Québécois premier Lucien Bouchard, and Charles Taylor, a philosopher long associated with McGill University, travelled the province listening to people in regions where there are few, if any, Jews, Muslims, Hindus or Sikhs, rant about Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs.

The hearings exposed the fact that a significant portion of the Quebec population remains overtly hostile to minorities; a portion of the population that too many Quebec politicians seem all too willing to pander to.

Despite the fact that the survey results are much more encouraging for the rest of Canada than they are for Quebec, we mustn't feel complacent about the results.

While problems of prejudice may be less exaggerated in the English-speaking provinces, they do exist and do need to be addressed constantly.

I would like to offer my great appreciation to and deep admiration for Barry Fishman, who is now the editor emeritus of the *Bulletin*.

When I joined the *Bulletin* last summer as assistant editor, I came in with many years of experience working in the mainstream, alternative and Jewish media, primarily in Montreal. But although I'd visited Ottawa many times, and liked the city very much, I'd never lived here.

From Barry, I've learned much about Ottawa, about the Jewish community here, and about the workings of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* and the important role it plays in the community.

All the while, I've watched Barry face his illness with uncommon courage and dignity. I look forward to his friendship and to his continued guidance in the affairs of the *Bulletin*.

I would also like to say that the thoughts of all of us at the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* are with *Bulletin* contributor Nicola Hamer and her family as she faces her battle back to good health.

American primary battle excites Canadian political junkies

For raw political spectacle, nothing beats a good old-fashioned brokered leadership convention. Here in Canada, it is the traditional way our political parties have selected their leaders.

Delegates come from across the country to a hockey arena or convention centre in a major city and, over a couple of days of speechifying and balloting and convincing and cajoling and backrooming, they figure out who will be the next leader of their party. Often enough, the final result is unpredictable and the process to achieve that result is drama-laden.

In 24 hours and four ballots, Stéphane Dion climbed from fourth place to first and became the unexpected leader of the Liberal Party at their last convention 15 months ago (a convention I attended as a journalist). In 1976, Joe Clark rode a similar path to victory as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party. And then there was the famous written agreement that ended the very last convention of the PC Party in 2003 and made Peter MacKay the very last leader of that party – a job he held onto long enough to break the agreement and dissolve the party.

A dramatic brokered political convention in 1968 picked Canada's longest-serving postwar prime minister, Pierre Trudeau. Another one in 1993 picked Canada's first-ever female prime minister, Kim Campbell.



Alan Echenberg

And another one in 1990 set off the feud between Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin that would dominate Liberal Party politics for 15 years.

Whether or not these conventions pick the best leader, or are sufficiently democratic, are open questions and beside the point, which is – again – that they are like heroin for political junkies.

In recent years, some political parties have opted for different methods of picking leaders. The current governing party, for instance, used a Byzantine system of point allocations and preferential ballots to elect Stephen Harper as leader in 2004. He won on the first ballot, the results of which were announced at a glorified press conference.

Yawn.

United States politics play out on a bigger stage than those of Canada. The leadership conventions of the two major American parties are big, glitzy, expensive affairs, with massive media coverage. But in mod-

ern times, they are also scripted events with predetermined outcomes. Adlai Stevenson won the last brokered convention in the U.S. more than half a century ago.

The convention results are predetermined because it usually doesn't take too long into the winter primary season for the major party front-runners to be sorted out and guaranteed first-ballot victories months before the summer conventions begin.

This year, of course, we have seen a different sort of American presidential race, particularly among the Democratic Party candidates.

The race certainly has caught the eye of political junkies on this side of the border.

Despite much Canadian grist for the political mill – the Mulroney-Schreiber hearings on Parliament Hill, the recent federal budget, the machinations of our political parties to prevent and/or provoke a spring election – many of us who work in the shadow of the Peace Tower have turned our attention southward in recent weeks.

We junkies have found the quality and quantity of the politics out of the American election campaign too addictive to resist.

Aside from the historic prospect of the first black president, the first female president or the oldest president ever to be sworn into office, the American race offers the best chance in a long time for a bro-

kered convention on the Democratic side. Or at least a more interesting one, as non-elected, non-committed, so-called "superdelegates" may make the difference for the ultimate winner.

Most likely, the Democratic Party nominee will get sorted out before it comes to that, perhaps even by the time you are reading this newspaper, which is scheduled to hit the stands around the time of the all-important Texas and Ohio primary votes.

But in a way, the drawn-out, uncertain, exciting primary season itself has served as an extended brokered convention, offering thrill-a-minute jolts to political junkies – no jolt bigger than last month's Extra Super Duper Tuesday fight-to-a-draw.

If you are a Canadian political junkie, standing too close to the U.S. border may give you a contact high.

A couple of personal notes: I would like to wish continuing courage and a quick recovery to my friend Nicola Hamer, whose wonderful writing occasionally appears in this corner.

I also would like to wish the best to Barry Fishman, the editor emeritus of this newspaper, whose own health battle has been similarly courageous.

Alan Echenberg is *TVOntario's* Parliamentary bureau chief.



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Gaza war enters new phase

By Roy Eitan

JERUSALEM (JTA) – A surge in bloodshed recently has pushed the battle in the Gaza Strip into a new phase, with Hamas militants expanding their attacks on Israel to include a sizable city and Israel responding with a military operation in Gaza.

An Israeli man was killed in Sderot on February 27 and two Israeli soldiers died during Israel Defense Forces operations in Gaza that began March 1 after Hamas militants fired several Katyusha-type rockets into Ashkelon, a coastal Israeli city of 120,000. More than 100 Palestinians have died in the violence so far, including numerous civilians.

Israel's operations in Gaza have prompted condemnation from the European Union and the United Nations secretary-general.

With no letup in the rocket attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was defiant.

"The State of Israel has no intention of balting counter-terrorist actions, even for a



Palestinian prisoners are escorted to a bus after being arrested during Israel's escalated operation in the Gaza Strip on March 2, 2008. (Source: Brian Hendler)

second," Olmert told his cabinet March 2 in broadcast remarks.

The paroxysm of violence has brought new challenges to Israel's strategy of containing violence from the Gaza Strip and derailed peace talks between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

The latest surge in fighting began when Hamas rocket crews fired dozens of rockets at Israel after the Israeli Air Force bombed a van carrying five Hamas militiamen who recently had returned to Gaza after undergoing specialized military training in Iran.

The Hamas rocket attacks claimed their first fatality in nine months: a 47-year-old father of four who was undergoing job training at Sderot's Sapir College after recovering from a kidney transplant.

Hamas also fired several Katyusha rockets into Ashkelon. The Katyushas, which have a longer range than the homemade Kassams regularly fired at Sderot, likely were brought into Gaza when the border between the Palestinian territory and Egypt was breached several weeks ago.

The fatality in Sderot and the Katyusha attacks on Ashkelon prompted Israeli politicians to call for a massive military operation in Gaza to counter what they described as Hamas' escalation of the conflict.

Israeli officials described

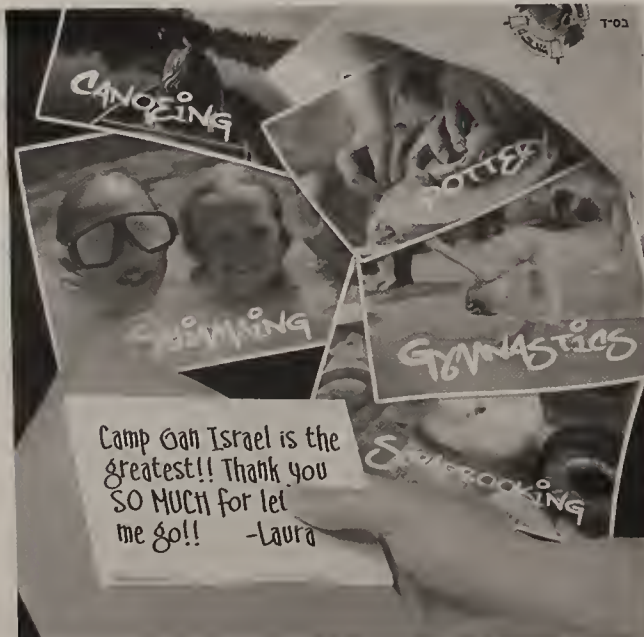
the crackdown as a "war," but said a full-scale invasion of Gaza was still a way off. The objective, it seemed, was to kill or capture as many Hamas rocket crewmen as possible and perhaps target the Islamist group's leadership as well.

"The ultimate objective is to bring an end to the firing of Kassams," Defense Minister Ehud Barak said.

For its part, the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority in the West Bank announced it was scrapping a routine peace

negotiators' meeting that was scheduled to take place March 3.

Though Mahmoud Abbas' administration stopped short of declaring dead the peace process revived at the U.S.-led peace conference last November in Annapolis, Md., the Palestinian Authority president irked Israelis by saying in broadcast remarks that what was happening in Gaza was a "worse holocaust" than what befell the Jews in the Second World War.



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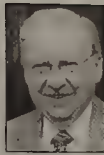
Sophie and Neil Frenkel are delighted to announce the engagement of their son Howard to Amanda, daughter of Sabina and Gerry Green of Montreal. Exiled siblings are Josh, Sharon and Mark, Jason and Jodi. Proud grandmother is Dora Frenkel of Israel. An October wedding is planned in Montreal.





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Since the beginnings of Zionism, KKL-JNF has been the Jewish people's emissary in the Land of Israel. For 106 years, KKL-JNF has acquired land and prepared it for use; created agricultural communities; planted forests; helped new immigrants to acclimatize; and contributed to the security of the State during its process of formation. While the Jewish people, through its institutions, blazed the trail, KKL-JNF paved the trail.

The work of KKL-JNF is not yet done. The modern era presents new challenges that are quite different from those encountered in the past. KKL-JNF has taken important tasks upon itself, some at the behest of the government, others on its own initiative on behalf of the nation. It is difficult to imagine what the State of Israel would be like without KKL-JNF's commitment to these undertakings.

Examples follow.

KKL-JNF has:

- Built 200 reservoirs that supply about one-quarter of Israel's agricultural water.
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- Crisscrossed Israel with a network of marked hiking and biking trails.
- Created lookout points and recreational areas in the heart of the countryside.

KKL-JNF foresters have:

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Group works with Israeli youth to promote Jewish social justice

By Dina Kraft

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Standing behind a table covered in pamphlets, a pair of high school girls try to catch the attention of fellow students rushing by with an unlikely call: "Do you know about the exploitation of temporary workers?"

Ahava Katzin, 17, asks one student whether he is aware that the janitors and security guards who work on contract as temporary workers at their school don't always get benefits due them, such as overtime pay and a pension fund.

"A person can work their whole life and never receive a pension – can you believe that?" asks the incredulous Katzin, an auburn-haired voice student at a music school in Jerusalem.

Katzin is spearheading the effort at her school to involve young people in the struggle for temporary workers' rights.

She is part of a network of youth volunteers organized by Bema'aglei Tzedek, a group that seeks to bring a sense of Jewish values to social issues in Israel.

The youth are focusing on the plight of temporary



Ahava Katzin (left) and Maya Saprio-Tain, students at the High School Music Conservatory at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, have worked to give janitors and security guards at their school social rights.

(Source: Brian Hendler)

workers, called "contract" workers in Israel. About 100,000 Israelis are temporary workers, occupying the lowest socio-economic strata in the country. They are a mix of new immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union and Israeli Arabs who are desperate for work even if it's often low-paying and unstable.

The students' activism functions at different levels. Sometimes it's passing out chocolates and thanking the otherwise anonymous cleaning staff and security guards

for their work. Other times it's lobbying the Knesset for worker-friendly legislation.

The students also meet with the workers themselves to inform them of rights many didn't know they had. They even review the workers' pay stubs to check that they have been given the proper payment and benefits. When the students note irregularities, they bring them up with employers.

"Someone who is just trying to make ends meet every month is not going to open his or her mouth and risk los-

ing their job," Katzin said.

She says she and her fellow volunteers see it as their responsibility to take action. For example, when they discovered that one of the Arab janitors at their school, the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance High School, did not get time off to celebrate a major Muslim holiday with his family, she and a group of other students told him to stay home and volunteered to clean in his place.

"It bothered us that, despite all the social movements in Israel, none of them were dealing with the fact that we are a Jewish state," said Assaf Banner, the director of Bema'aglei Tzedek.

"It cannot be that 700,000 children live under the poverty line and 3,000 women are trafficked in any state, let alone the Jewish state, and we had wanted to deal with social justice from a Jewish perspective."

The organization brings together both secular and religious. Among their volunteer activists are students from religiously and politically conservative yeshivas to the furthest left-leaning youth movements.

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Montreal klezmer band Shtreiml to perform at NAC Fourth Stage

By Michael Regenstreif
Shtreiml, the popular Montreal-based klezmer band headed by innovative harmonica player Jason Rosenblatt, will perform in concert on March 19 at the National Arts Centre's (NAC) Fourth Stage.

Shtreiml first came together in 2002 at KlezKanada, the week-long instructional camp for klezmer music and Yiddish culture held annually in late-August at Camp B'nai Brith in the Laurentians north of Montreal.

As Rosenblatt explained in a telephone interview with the *Bulletin*, he wasn't that interested in klezmer music in 2001, the first year he attended KlezKanada.

"I'd studied jazz piano at the Rimon School of Jazz in Israel," he said "and went to KlezKanada as a pianist."

Rosenblatt was one among many pianists at the camp and said he felt "smothered" that first year. "There are only so many pianos there," he said.

But still, KlezKanada piqued enough interest in him to return the next year; this time, with a focus on adapting klezmer music to the harmonica, an instrument he came to through exposure to such blues musicians as Sonny Terry and Paul Butterfield whose records he'd heard at home as a youngster.

Rosenblatt grew up in a family that loved music. They had a large record collection and, as a child, he often heard his grandmother singing Yiddish songs and his mother singing the blues and folk songs she'd performed in coffee houses before her children were born.

Rosenblatt began to think



Montreal klezmer band Shtreiml performs March 19 at the NAC Fourth Stage. Pictured (left to right) are bassist Adam Stotland, trombonist Rachel Lemisch, harmonica player Jason Rosenblatt and drummer Thierry Arseneault. (Photo: Kiran Ambwani)

about focusing on the harmonica as an instrument for klezmer music after hearing and meeting American harmonica virtuoso Howard Levy. Levy, who can play virtually any kind of music on the harmonica, opened Rosenblatt's eyes – and ears – to the instrument's potential. Levy taught Rosenblatt the techniques he devised for playing the diatonic harmonica chromatically, thus opening up new and exciting possibilities for the little horn.

At KlezKanada in 2002, Rosenblatt hooked up with accordionist and singer Josh Dolgin, and the first version of Shtreiml was born.

"We rehearsed for a week-and-a-half and played our first gig at a Jewish student film festival," he recalled.

A year later, Shtreiml released its first CD, *Harmonica Galitzyaner*, a well-received project that marked Shtreiml as one of klezmer music's most interesting new bands. A second album,

Spicy Paprikash, reinforced their growing reputation. On their third CD, *Fenci's Blues*, Shtreiml collaborated with Turkish oud player Ismail Fencioglu in exploring a fusion of Turkish and Jewish music.

Over the years, Shtreiml has been through several personnel changes. Dolgin, who works under the name Socalled, developed his own klezmer and hip-hop fusion and left the band to concentrate on his own projects. Meanwhile, Philadelphia trombonist Rachel Lemisch became a core member of Shtreiml along with bassist Adam Stotland and drummer Thierry Arseneault.

Rosenblatt met Lemisch – a descendant of the Lemisch family klezmer dynasty of Romania – at KlezKanada and she began playing with Shtreiml as a guest-musician whenever her schedule would allow. After a while, said Rosenblatt, "the band didn't sound right without her."

Rosenblatt and Lemisch are now married and divide their time between Montreal and Philadelphia.

For the Ottawa concert, Rosenblatt is promising some traditional klezmer music along with Judeo-Turkish music and some newer, original compositions that bring blues elements to Jewish music. And there may be a guest or two on stage with Shtreiml. One possibility is Abby Rosenblatt, Jason's mother, who is about to release her debut CD of Yiddish songs.

Shtreiml's concert, presented by the Ottawa Folk Festival, takes place at the NAC Fourth Stage on Wednesday, March 19 at 8:00 pm (doors open at 7:30). General admission tickets are \$25.00 and are available at the NAC box office or from Ticketmaster at 613-755-1111 or ticketmaster.ca. There are no surcharges for tickets bought in person at the NAC box office.

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Rabbi urges cautious approach to alternative medicine

By Aaron Sarna

There is a place for alternative medicine and therapies in healing various illnesses as long as they complement modern medical science and are proven effective, according to Rabbi Eliezer Ben-Porat.

The rabbi was addressing the topic, "Is Alternative Medicine Kosher?" at the fourth annual Adina Ben-Porat Memorial Lecture on medical ethics at the Soloway JCC. The lecture was sponsored by the Ottawa Torah Institute (OTI) Yeshiva High School and Machon Sarah High School. Both schools are celebrating milestones this year with OTI marking its 25th anniversary and Machon Sarah its Chai anniversary.

Co-lecturer Judy Spence, RN, a practitioner of natural medicine, noted that as much as half of the Canadian population has turned to alternative medical relief. In fact, insurance companies now cover the costs of many of these treatments, which include acupuncture, aromatherapy, herbal medicine, massage treatments, osteopathy, homeopathy and reflexology.

Spence's own interest in this field developed over a decade ago when conventional physicians were unable to cure her severe environmental illness contracted during a home renovation.



Co-lecturers Rabbi Eliezer Ben-Porat and Judy Spence in conversation.

Holistic treatments, including acupuncture and oxygen therapy, succeeded in removing the mercury from her body through non-invasive procedures.

She called on physicians to integrate natural healing approaches in their practices and for the public to ensure that practitioners of natural medicine be properly certified.

Drawing on the jurisprudence developed by post-Talmudic Rishonim such as Maimonides, Rabbi Ben-Porat, OTI's dean, stated that Judaic law requires people to turn to qualified physicians first in seeking healing. Only they can determine what constitutes valid scientific treatment.

Recourse to folk medicine and talismanic treatments cited in the Talmud, and supported by such luminaries as Rabbi Shlomo Ben Avraham Adret, was contrary to Maimonides' views.

"We cannot use the ancient remedies in the Talmud because they were based on the science of the time, and science has since changed," explained Rabbi Ben-Porat in summarizing Maimonides' arguments.

But, what if conventional medicine has no cure for one's illness? Rabbi Ben-Porat said the decisors of Jewish law, notably the 19th century sage Rabbi Yitzchak Elchanan Spektor, ruled that alternative medical treatment should be sought as

long as it could be ascertained that it was reliable and effective.

Rabbi Ben-Porat also pointed out that the principle of *pikuach nefesh*, or saving a life, trumped all other considerations, including the concern over utilizing effective remedies that may have been popularized by idolators.

During the question-and-answer period, a lively exchange ensued on the merits of alternative medicine with the audience appearing to agree that natural medicine could play a complementary role in conventional modern medical practice.

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ALTERNACARE

Dignitaries enjoy a day of Israeli culinary delights

By Cynthia Nyman Engel
For JNF Canada

Laureen Harper, the wife of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, seeded pomegranates while Janine Krieger, the wife of Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion, cut up sea bass, and together the ladies created sea bass ceviche. Or, as *Maclean's* columnist Mitchel Raphael dubbed it, "a bipartisan appetizer," and a delicious one, at that.

The location was Kinneret, the residence of Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker and his wife, Dalia.

The occasion was the evening portion of *A Taste of Israel*, a day-long Israeli culinary delight that began with lunch in the West Block on Parliament Hill and culminated in a culinary evening at Kinneret. Israeli-only ingredients were the order of the day and the menus were the sole purview of three chefs spirited to Canada from Israel's Dan Hotel chain.

The event, a joint under-



(From left to right): Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker, Sharon Marcovitz Hart, national president JNF; and James Lunney, MP and chair of Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group.



(From left to right): Laureen Harper, Sharon Marcovitz Hart, Dalia Baker and Janine Krieger.

taking by Jewish National Fund (JNF) Canada and the Embassy of Israel in honour of Tu B'Shevat and Israel's upcoming 60th Anniversary.

The luncheon, hosted by the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, was sponsored by Lindi and Nathan Jacobson of Toronto.

Torontonian Rose Lax sponsored the evening function.

At noon, the West Block atmosphere was warm and friendly as parliamentarians, JNF supporters and past honourees from across Canada mingled and munched on a cornucopia of Israeli-style hors d'oeuvres prepared by Creative Kosher

Catering using recipes supplied by the visiting chefs.

Nanaimo-Alberni MP James Lunney, chair of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, and JNF of Canada President Sharon Marcovitz Hart addressed the assembly. Both welcomed the congenial gathering, spoke glowingly of the warm relationship between Canada and Israel and praised the work done by JNF.

In appreciation of his chairmanship of the Friendship Group, Hart presented Lunney with a framed certificate attesting to his having been inscribed in the Golden Book of Honour in Israel, joining presidents,

members of royal families, dignitaries and thousands of others.

Later, at Kinneret, some 30 women, and one lone man, JNF Eastern Canada Executive Director Mark Mendelson, an accomplished cook in his own right, joined Israeli chefs Boaz Sharabi, Miki Nir and Roman Elizarov in preparing an Israeli dinner supreme.

Each of the guests, including JNF officers Lisa Cogan, immediate past president; Linda Kerzner, first vice-president; Renna Basal, president of JNF Montreal; as well as Hart and others from JNF Toronto, rolled up their collective sleeves, donned (and took

home) attractive aprons donated by Ruth Aaron and pitched in to help the culinary artists do their thing.

Afterward, the group enjoyed the fruits of their labours. The menu consisted of sea bass ceviche, roasted eggplant with yoghurt and tehina, Mediterranean salad with citrus vinaigrette, confit of sea bass and mandarin sherbet.

The guests thoroughly enjoyed the meal and took the recipes home with them.

The Israeli chefs allowed that, taste-wise, Canadian-grown beets beat their Israeli-grown counterparts but insisted that all other Israeli-grown vegetables leave their rivals in the dust.

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- 1) Christopher Friedrichs, University of British Columbia**

 - **Jewish Selfhood in a Christian Society: Youth and Religious Identity in Nineteenth-Century Germany**, McMartin Memorial Lecture, co-sponsored by the College of the Humanities, Thurs., March 13, 2008, 7:30 pm, Paterson Hall, Room 303, Carleton U.
 - **A Rabbi Faces Old Age: How a Pioneer of Reform Judaism Learned to Cope with Change**, Sunday, March 16, 10:00 am, Temple Israel.
- 2) Benjamin M. Baader, University of Manitoba**

 - **Rabbis, Women, and the Making of Modern Judaism in Nineteenth-Century Germany**, Wed., March 19, 6:30 pm, Loeb Building, Room C164, Carleton U.
 - **Nineteenth-Century German Rabbis on Feminine Judaism and Gentle Jewish Men**, Thurs, March 20, 8:30-10:00 am, Tory Building, Room 234, Carleton U.

All talks are free and open to the public. For information:
Tel: 613-520-2600, ext. 1320, email: jewish_studies@carleton.ca
www.carleton.ca/jewishstudies

JFS Purim drive fulfils mitzvah of giving to the poor

By Jeremy Miller, JFS

On the evening of March 20, the presence of Jewish Family Services (JFS) will be felt in synagogues across Ottawa.

Purim encompasses many different aspects: a festive meal, *nishloach manot*, cursing Haman, blessing Mordechai and, of course, dressing in costume. There is, however, the lesser publicized custom of *matanot le'evyonim*, gifts to the poor.

All the money collected prior to and on the evening of Purim will be distributed on Purim day by JFS.

"It is important to remember, as we celebrate the miracle and the triumph over Haman, not all the members of our community are able share in the euphoric celebrations," says Mark Zarecki, executive director of JFS.

"Unfortunately, there are members of our community who are in dire need of assistance and JFS is currently providing and will continue to provide help to these families and individuals."

The Ezra Fund at JFS is the vehicle that

will be used to fulfil the commandment of gifts to the poor. This fund has been set up with the sole purpose of being an emergency poverty relief fund. Throughout the course of the year, more than \$350,000 is collected and distributed from this fund. Still more is needed.

Zarecki believes that, if the community made poverty a central issue, it could be alleviated. Currently, JFS is assisting 500 Jewish families.

"For some unknown reason, despite the statistics, the Jewish community does not recognize the fact that there is poverty within the Jewish community of Ottawa," Zarecki says. "Hopefully, with Purim and the commandment to provide gifts to the poor, they will realize there is a significant segment of the Jewish population living in poverty, and they need help."

This year, when listening to the Megillah, JFS is asking you to follow the commandment of giving to the poor. It will take a united effort by the entire Jewish community to combat poverty.

JET's Mishloach Manot renews the tradition of Purim gift giving

By Rachel Sheffrin

In 1997, the Green Bay Packers won their first NFL championship in 30 years. In Ottawa that same year, Rabbi Zischa and Lauren Shaps were busy lining up a rather different team of *packers*: eager volunteers who prepared gourmet gift baskets for JET's first *Mishloach Manot* delivery service. Purim in Ottawa hasn't been the same since.

While many think of Chanukah as the gift-giving time on the Jewish calendar, it is actually at Purim when we're obligated to give gifts; specifically parcels of food. As it says in *Megillat Esther*, Mordechai enjoined the Jews to make the 14th and 15th days of the month of Adar "days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor."

Through the practice of giving gifts to one another, and helping the needy on Purim, we

build community and demonstrate Jewish unity.

The *Mishloach Manot* delivery service, a community-wide Purim operation that involves volunteers in co-ordinating orders, packing baskets and delivering them to homes throughout the city on Purim day, is a way to bring out this idea of community.

JET took orders for this year's baskets until January 16 and, when Purim arrives on March 21, JET will deliver an elegant, goody-filled basket to each recipient, along with a scroll listing the people who contributed to the gift.

In 1997, when the program began, 60 people sent baskets to 250 recipients. This year, 250 people placed orders and baskets will be delivered to more than 1,200 people across the city. More than 100 volunteers were involved in making the project a success.



Volunteers (from left to right) Shirley Schilkraut, Leah Scarowsky and Rebecca Stulberg prepare gourmet Purim gift baskets for JET's *Mishloach Manot* delivery service.

Jewish Community Service Awards

Members of the Jewish community are invited to nominate individuals to receive the following community awards at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation in early June.

Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award

The Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award is the highest tribute that the Ottawa Jewish Community can bestow on an individual for exceptional service over the course of many years.

Initiated in 1980, it bears the name of the late Past President of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Gilbert Greenberg, who exemplified the qualities of leadership, which the award endeavours to recognize.

Freiman Family Young Leadership Award

The Freiman Family Young Leadership Award recognizes an individual or an organization within the Jewish community, under the age of 40, who has contributed actively to the Jewish community in the two or more years following his/her participation in the Young Leadership Development Program, or as a young leader rendered exceptional service to the Jewish community.

The Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award presented by the Ottawa Citizen

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The Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award was created to recognize an outstanding and active volunteer with the Jewish community who, through many years of service, has contributed to the enrichment of Jewish life in Ottawa.

Address Recommendations by March 31, 2008 to:

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c/o Chair of the Selection Committee
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- ☐ Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award
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South African journalist says apartheid label does not fit Israel

By Liana Shlien

Benjamin Pogrud, a South African journalist now living in Israel, spoke at Carleton University during the first-ever Ottawa Campus Israel Week. Running parallel was "Israel Apartheid Week 2008," a series of events organized at universities worldwide.

In his talk, Pogrud brought the history of anti-apartheid activism to bear in refuting allegations by Israel's critics that the country's policies resemble apartheid South Africa.

Such claims received wide exposure at the 2001 UN Anti-Racism Conference in Durban, where Pogrud said he was "shocked to the core of my being" by the extreme anti-Israel resolutions.

Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier recently announced Canada will not attend next year's follow-up conference fearing it will be a repeat of the 2001 session, which disintegrated into an orgy of Israel bashing and anti-Semitism.

The apartheid label is just one of the "code words concealing the destruction of Israel," used by those who seek to delegitimize the Jewish state, said Pogrud.

As a pioneer in reporting on South Africa's 75 per cent black majority, Pogrud frequently fell afoul of his country's state-controlled media. He eventually left for the United States, and made *aliyah* in 1997, three years after apartheid ended.

Pogrud began his comparison of Israel and South Africa with a disclaimer, limiting his comments to Israel proper, within the 1967



'Apartheid' is a falsely applied code word used by those seeking to delegitimize the State of Israel, says Benjamin Pogrud, a South African journalist now living in Israel, who covered the dismantling of the apartheid regime in his native country.

boundaries.

Israeli-Arabs are equal in law, unlike blacks under apartheid, explained Pogrud. Israel's 20 per cent Arab minority has full voting rights and thus political power. An Arab sits in the cabinet and on the Supreme Court - a far cry from South Africa's racially segregated court system.

He described the former education system in South Africa as "appalling" for blacks, whereas, in Israel, each individual group receives government funding and controls its own schools. "In Israel, it's not racial; it's according to each community."

Interracial marriage was a criminal offence in South Africa. While Israel does not recognize marriages that do not follow strict Jewish law, the common loophole is a trip to Cyprus, where secular

Pogrud, who founded the Yakar Center for Social Concern in Jerusalem in 1997, feels that mobilizing public opinion will lead to a solution.

"Make contact, create trust," he told the audience, citing the centre's mantra for promoting Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

On a personal note, he recalled that, while seriously ill in hospital five years ago, both Jewish and Arab medical staff treated him, a situation that would have been "inconceivable" in an apartheid setting.

Among the mostly young adult crowd, Josh Margo, program co-ordinator of Jewish Education through Torah (JET), agreed with Pogrud's points, but said, "I was hoping he would give specific talking points to engage and build relations."

Margo said he believes nonpolitical programs help promote peaceful dialogue.

Audience member Asher Farber, a second-year University of Ottawa music student, said he is continually exposed to groups labelling Israel an apartheid state.

Farber said the term is "a political tool," and added, "It's valuable to hear people who have so much background cast light on the experience."

Jews (or a Jew and a non-Jew) can legally marry. Thus, "discrimination is applied equally," in terms of religion, he said.

A nation's treatment of its minorities is its test, said Pogrud, noting Canada's less than stellar record regarding First Nations.

He said the original function of the West Bank separation fence - security and control - has been perverted by Israel's opponents, who note that even segregated South Africa had nothing comparable.

"It's not a pretty sight," he acknowledged.

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(Continued on page 16)

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JFS receives federal grant to fight racism

By Jeremy Miller, JFS
Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has provided a substantial grant to Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Ottawa to develop and implement a program to fight racism and promote the adaptation of immigrants. The program will provide training to help frontline workers in the settlement agencies of Ottawa to deal with biases and prejudices expressed by newcomers, which can impede their successful settlement in Canada.

The idea for the program came after an incident at a program committee meeting of the Carleton School of Social Work.

During a normal exchange of ideas between colleagues, a frontline settlement worker from another local agency stood up and stated "... it is well known that the Jews were behind the attacks on the World Trade Center and it was a proven fact because all the Jews had been warned to stay away from the area that day."

As the shock of the statement settled in, JFS Executive Director Mark Zarecki awaited a response, but the room remained silent.

Later, Zarecki approached the executive director of the agency where the person making the statement worked.

The outcome of the conversation was the confirmation that prejudices, which not only included anti-Semitism but also Islamophobia, disdain for Christians, homophobia and negative views of

women as well as other groups, are serious issues within the settlement area and often impede the adjustment process.

Once the CIC grant was obtained, and with the support of LASI (Local Agencies Serving Immigrants), JFS proceeded. Rubin Friedman, the anti-racism project co-ordinator and a post Second World War refugee, developed the curriculum.

"Immigrant settlement workers are at the forefront of helping newcomers adjust to their new environment and should serve as a bridge to assist them in making the transition from their old society to their new one using the values of equality and respect for others that are enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms," Friedman said.

"This project will help workers in dealing with the prejudices and biases of newcomers, which can prevent successful adaptation to Canadian life."

According to Friedman, the program will also help newcomers address the systemic discrimination directed at them.

Farah Aw-Osman, an outreach worker for Jewish Family Services, knows firsthand the importance of adjusting to a new environment. Originally from Somalia, he immigrated to Canada 20 years ago. Since then, he

has overcome several of the challenges facing new immigrants, including language and education.

"It is important for me to help those who choose to come to Canada. We have dreams of a better life, a better place, but not all [immigrants] recognize the difficulties and the adjustments that come with immigrating," Aw-Osman noted.

"I want to help others to overcome the barriers and help their dreams of a better future for themselves and their families come true."

Joining Friedman and Aw-Osman is Roshan Musa. While growing up in the Ivory Coast, Musa attended a school with close to 400 students representing more than 75 nationalities. It was not until she immigrated to Canada and then attended Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania that she experienced racism.

It was not the classic racism that North Americans have come to understand, she noted.

"Coming from a school where over 75 countries were represented, I was Roshan," Musa said.

"It was not until I came here, to Canada, and went to university that I felt and saw people categorize me based on my gender, my nationality, my religion or my skin colour."

"All of a sudden, I did not

feel like a whole. I was an Afro-Arab, an African woman or a Muslim woman, and every category could have a political implication."

Although all three of the anti-racism unit workers are immigrants, their experiences upon arriving and living in Canada have been extremely different.

Friedman has encountered classic racism and anti-Semitism while growing up in downtown Toronto and other forms of hatred more recently.

For Musa, it was the constant need for people to categorize her, never acknowledging her as a unique person.

While Aw-Osman has never experienced racism first-hand, he is well aware of its existence through incidents that have occurred within his community.

All agree that racism is a learned behaviour.

"No one is born a racist," said Aw-Osman. "Education and awareness is the best way to uproot the evil."

Participants from Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization, Catholic Immigration Center, Jewish Family Services, Ottawa Chinese Community Services Center, Women Services Ottawa, Somali Center for Family Services, World Skills and the Lebanese and Arab Social Society are taking part in the training sessions.



(Continued from page 15)

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Anna and Samuel Wex Family Fund

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In Honour of:
Steven and Roz Fremeth In appreciation and best wishes by Molly Wex
Richard Wex Happy Birthday with love by Bobby Molly Wex
Josh Wex Happy Birthday with love by Bobby Molly Wex
In observance of the Yahrzeit of:
My beloved husband Simon by Molly Wex

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Residents Feeding Program

A generous donation to the feeding program was made by the Silbert Family in memory of Morris Silbert
In Memory of:

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Vivian Teller by Ethel and Abe Murray

IN MEMORY OF:

Arnold Goldberg by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz
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Morris Silbert by Hanna Faulkner; David Marigold; Jackie Lyons and Gary Stein and family; Esther and Werner Doltrop; Ray and Trish McKinstry; Janice and Joe McConnell; Merlinda Weinberg; Jacqueline and Robert Follis; Ingrid and Gerry Levitz; Erma and Daniel Seekings; and Bernard and Moura Wolpert
Vivian Teller by Dee and Yale Gaffen; Ingrid and Gerry Levitz; Roz, Steven and Howard Fremeth; and Lynn Gillman and Bobby Kaminsky
The beloved father of Mordy Bubis by David and Barbara Kates and Family
Leon Bleviss by Estelle and Ian Melzer
Fanny Diamond by Marion Silver and Alan Brass and Family; and the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge

IN HONOUR OF:

Paul Finn Thank you for your time and talent in assisting us in our search by the Hillel Lodge Long Term Care Foundation
Jack Silverstein Thank you for your time and talent in assisting us in our search by the Hillel Lodge Long Term Care Foundation
Sarah and Jack Silverstein On behalf of the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge, we extend a hearty Mazal Tov to you on the birth of your son by the Hillel Lodge Long Term Care Foundation; and Roz and Steven Fremeth
Janet and Jonathan Isserlin Mazal Tov on the birth of your grandson by Shelley and Morris Schachnow

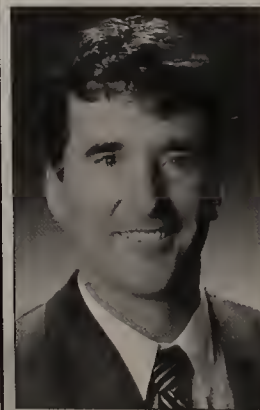
R'FUAH SHLEMA:

Sol Kalman Sincere wishes for a speedy recovery by Sheldon and Sonia Shaffer

THE FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

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'Purim International' theme of OTC Purim party

"Purim International" is Ottawa Torah Center's (OTC) creative twist on its traditional Purim party.

"The community knows that on Purim eve, OTC is the place to be," says Rabbi Menachem M. Blum, OTC executive director. "This is our 10th year presenting 'Purim Around the World' and it will be the best ever for children and adults alike."

OTC's Purim bash will be held at the Soloway JCC on Thursday, March 20, 6:30 pm, and is co-sponsored by Jewish Family Services.

The main social hall will be turned into a globe, with different food stations depicting different countries. Enjoy a delicious pasta bar in Italy, stop by the falafel stand in Israel and don't miss the kosher Chinese buffet (not always available in Ottawa). The children will love the American-style finger food. Dessert will be served in Austria at the Viennese table and *L'chaims* will be had in Scotland. In the spirit of Purim, everyone is invited to dress in costumes representing their home country.

At 7:00 pm, the celebration will feature Zanzar the Magical Genie, who has enthralled audiences, young and old, across North America for more than 25 years with his unique brand of illusion and sleight of hand. His trademark attire as a Persian magician (very fitting for Purim) and his highly interactive skills with children from the audience will bring delight and inspire awe

in all who come to witness his amazing performance.

The traditional Megillah reading will be accompanied by a new simultaneous slide show featuring Chabad Hebrew School students as the Purim characters. Following the delicious food, participants of all ages will be invited to join an African drumming circle, led by Leo Brooks.

Using hand-drums and percussion, the drumming circle offers equality because there is no head or tail. It includes people of all ages. The main objective is for people to share rhythm and get in tune with each other and themselves.

"In the spirit of Purim, which is a most joyous holiday, we invite everyone to join in the beat and the rhythm as we celebrate the deliverance of the Jewish people of Persia from extermination," says Rabbi Blum with a smile.

The celebration begins at 6:30 pm. Admission is \$15 adult, \$10 child and \$100 sponsorship.

"Making Jewish experiences fun and exciting is crucial to ensure Jewish continuity," explains Rabbi Blum. "For the last 10 years, our Purim party has allowed hundreds of people, young and old, from various backgrounds, to come and celebrate their Jewish identity."

For more information and reservations, call 613-823-0866 or online at www.ottawa.torahcenter.com.



Zanzar the Magical Genie delights audiences across North America with illusion and sleight of hand.



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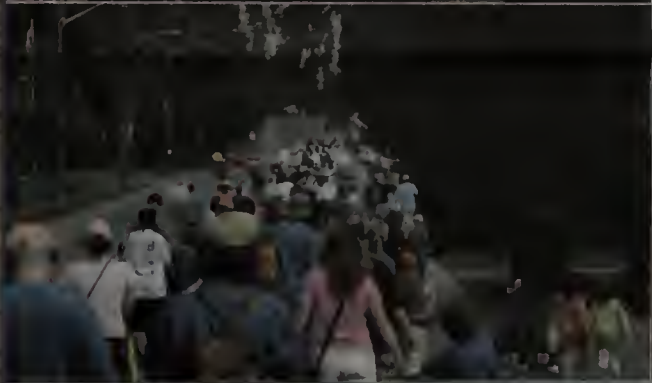
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Children at Israel after-school centre inspire volunteer

By Alyza Garten

Waiting in line for my early morning flight to Israel, I look over the almost 130 committed university students from around the world who would join me for 10 days on "Hillel's Alternative Break in Israel."

The program focuses on acts of *Gmitlut Chasidim*. We would be placed in six different Israeli cities to do volunteer projects.

I was sent to Haifa with 22 other students. We came from Canada, Russia, the United States, Uruguay and Israel. Our task was to refurbish an after-school centre (*moadonit*) and to play with the centre's students in the afternoon.

Though it was run by the Leo Baeck Educational Institute, Haifa's award-winning centre for democracy, and values education, our little school was in a less than wonderful neighbourhood.

Children who came here are youth at risk and most come from immigrant families, predominantly Ethiopian.



Alyza Garten high-fives children at an after-school centre in Haifa. Garten spent her school break doing volunteer work in Israel.

The painting, weeding, planting, and building we did changed how the *Bayit Ham* (our after-four centre) looked.

The work with the kids changed me. While in high school, I had worked in an after-four program for two years and have spent the last three summers as a camp

counsellor. I didn't think working with these children would be any different.

I was seriously mistaken.

The shock came the first day when I met a girl, not unlike myself, who loved sports and was constantly fighting with the boys for the soccer ball. She continuously poked at the other students

and me to gain our attention. I thought she just wanted to show us how good she was at soccer. Her teacher enlightened us. The girl came from a family where both the mother and father were deaf and mute.

It was at this point I realized these kids were incredibly different than I had imagined. We saw them at the best point of their day, where they were care-free and removed from the incomprehensible troubles of their lives.

What we were doing was so much more than building or playing with little kids. I began to think differently about the trip and understood, while my role in the *moadonit* was small, this centre, no bigger than a house, played a huge role in its students' lives. This place provided them with a safe-haven from their difficult home life.

The painting and refurbishing we did just helped their refuge shine. We were able to make their sanctuary dream-like, complete with

murals and a safe playground.

The children were role-models of perseverance, faith and strength. They demonstrated incredible intelligence and personality and I was pleasantly shocked by their humour and fun-loving ways,

despite all the hard times they suffered at homes.

Our group was able to give them a place of their very own. I hope it will last forever and this *moadonit* will continually provide comfort and love to children in need.

Wine sale supports Na'amat work

The annual kosher for Passover wine sale sponsored by Na'amat's Aviva Chapter features a large selection of wines and liqueurs from a variety of countries, including Israel, Australia, Chili and others.

Money raised from the sale will help support Na'amat's vast network of social and educational services in Israel. Many Israelis experiencing economic hardships turn to Na'amat for help. Some of the services Na'amat funds are day care centres, high schools, single parent support services,

legal aid centres and a facility for abused women.

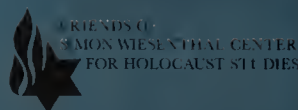
Locally, Na'amat is involved in a School Supply for Kids in Shelters project, where, in September, packages are supplied to children living with their mothers in shelters for battered women.

The support of the community over the years has allowed Na'amat to continue with this project. If you are interested in being placed on our mailing list and purchasing wines, call Deana Schildkraut 613-726-9595.

Event Postponed - See New Date Below

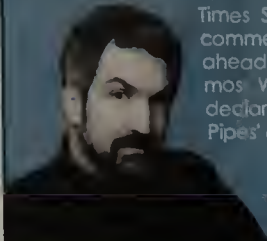
"The Threat to Israel's Existence - Why It's Back, How to Deal with It"

- introducing Daniel Pipes



From Iranian nuclear threats to European elected officials to American professors, voices far and near are coming out against the continued existence of the Jewish state. Their numbers include Islamists of all stripes, leftists, and the hard right. Why, after not hearing such voices for years, are they back and with such intensity? Why have hopes for an Arab-Israeli resolution failed so badly? What do these new dangers mean for Israel? What policies should Western states adopt?

Daniel Pipes is director of the Middle East Forum, a think tank that seeks to define and promote American interests in the Middle East and a prize-winning columnist now writing for the New York Times Syndicate. The Wall Street Journal calls Mr. Pipes "an authoritative commentator on the Middle East." CBS Sunday Morning says he was "years ahead of the curve in identifying the threat of radical Islam." "Unnoticed by most Westerners" he wrote for example in 1995, "war has been unilaterally declared on Europe and the United States." The Boston Globe states that "If Pipes' admonitions had been heeded, there might never have been a 9/11."



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Koranyi gift helps BGU acquire MRI simulator

By Benita Baker

Imagine lying flat on a narrow table inside a large cylinder-shaped tube. There are ear plugs in your ears to muffle the constant loud noise emanating from the chamber. You are all alone. You must stay completely still for as long as 60 minutes. Even the slightest movement will prolong your stay.

This is not a scene out of a science fiction movie. This is what it is like to be in a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine. MRIs provide a unique view inside the body that can detect tumours, injuries, soft tissue masses, infections and strokes. But, clearly, there are drawbacks.

Imagine what it must be like for a child in an MRI machine. If adults can easily panic and become claustrophobic from the confined space, loud noise and often-uncomfortable position the patient must lie still in, how frightening must it be for children too young to understand the medical benefits of the machine?

Scientists at the Brain Imaging Lab at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev study how the brain works and what causes it to malfunction. One of the foremost areas



Erwin Koranyi's gift will help Ben-Gurion University purchase an MRI simulator to help prepare patients for their difficult MRI experience. It will be located alongside the MRI unit pictured above.

(Photo: Dani Machlis)

of the lab's research is epilepsy, particularly the kind that cannot be controlled by medication.

An MRI simulator, or 'mock magnet,' plays a key role in their research. Designed to replicate a working scanner, the MRI simulator enables both children and adults to get used to the noisy and confined space of the real machine. Since they know what to expect

when the actual imaging session takes place, they are calmer and more co-operative, saving time, money and excessive anxiety.

In the Brain Imaging Lab, the simulator is also used as an educational tool. Researchers can acquire a theoretical understanding of the technology and be trained in its use, minimizing the use of costly scanner time for instructional purposes.

They can also use the 'mock magnet' to develop and test experimental models.

According to Ilan Shelef, a specialist working in the lab, the MRI simulator requires upgrading.

"This is an absolutely critical step, not just for advancing ongoing research, but even for maintaining the level of research we're doing now."

Enter retired Ottawa psychiatrist, professor and philanthropist Erwin Koranyi. A staunch supporter of Ben-Gurion University for more than 25 years, he wanted to make a contribution to the school to honour the memory of his wife, Edie, who recently passed away. His only condition was that "the donation be of maximum benefit for the university."

The gift was designated toward the acquisition of the upgraded MRI simulator essential to the work of the Brain Imaging Lab.

"It was an excellent idea," said Adina Sultan, wife of former Israeli ambassador to Canada David Sultan. "Bearing in mind how much Edie loved children."

Koranyi agrees. "Ben-Gurion was one of my wife's favourite projects," he said. "There is a great

deal of satisfaction in honouring her with this gift."

The couple's fondness for the university had its roots in Koranyi's early years in Israel. A Holocaust survivor, in 1951, he became the first civilian physician in Eilat. It was hardly a resort town then – no electricity, no running water, no buildings.

Ben-Gurion University also struggled with a harsh desert climate, insufficient funds and limited enrollment. But it fought to achieve its ideal of being an open-minded community institution accessible to everyone and it prospered. Because of his experience in Eilat, Koranyi appreciates how difficult it was for the school to prevail.

"On a recent visit I walked through the cafeteria," said Koranyi, "and I saw Bedouin girls, women wearing burkas, Israeli soldiers with guns, pregnant women. It was very satisfying."

Now, with an MRI simulator that will advance research, ease the fears of patients and perhaps contribute to finding an answer to untreatable epilepsy and other brain disorders, the university will have even more reason to celebrate its success.

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Greely Community Centre stages *Fiddler on the Roof* March 26-30

By Anne Peterson

Nineteen years ago, Patsy Royer was busy directing rehearsals for The Greely Players' first-ever production, *Fiddler on the Roof*. She is now in rehearsal for the same show, at the same venue, with the same musical theatre company, but, this time, she is on stage as an actor.

Royer is playing Yente the Matchmaker in this version of the well-loved musical being staged at the Greely Community Centre, March 26 to 30.

How much have things changed over the last 19

years?

"This time, I am taking instructions instead of giving them," explained Royer. "The stage is much bigger than the one we had to work with in 1990, although we had a larger cast back then.

"We also have a real choreographer for this show. In the first production, I had to create the choreography – and I had no experience! Luckily, I had an idea of what Jewish folk dancing looks like, and we adapted it into the show."

Patsy can see many similarities as well.

"I still see this as an



Patsy Royer as Yente with Denise Gagnon-Lebrun as Golde in the Greely Players' production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

opportunity – as the only Jewish member of the cast – to explain our traditions so that the cast will understand the ceremonies practised by the Jews in the shtetl in the early 1900s," she said.

There are two other members from the original production in this year's cast. Holly Villeneuve (who played Bielke) and her mother Janet (who played Hodel) are both enjoying being in the show a second time around. Interestingly, Music Director John Pohran conducted that first show, but he has a new group of talented Canterbury Arts High School students in the pit.

Brent McLaren, who travels from Perth to attend the biweekly rehearsals, has played the role of Teyve three times for other theatre companies.

He said, "Fiddler is a life-changing show in so many ways, and I am most fortunate to be able to walk the streets as the dairyman once again."

The Greely Players' *Fiddler on the Roof* runs for six performances from March 26 to 30. There are two matinee shows. Tickets for reserved seating are available through the website at www.greely-players.ca or by calling 613-821-4107.

OTI students tour police station

By Yirmiya Clinton and Michael Burger, OTI

The Ottawa Torah Institute health class recently visited the Ottawa Police Station on Elgin Street on the invitation of the school's resource officer Constable Jack Woods. He has been coming to the school on Fridays to talk about his work as a police officer in the downtown area.

When we arrived at the station, Woods led us on a tour of the entire building, including cells where inmates are kept overnight and the various departmental offices.

After the tour, we played a basketball game against the police – a good competitive game, but we lost 58 to 44.

The police complimented us on our skill and our all-

round efficiency on the court.

"We were amazed how well they played," said Woods as he left the gym after the game.

"The truth is, they all played their best game," one policeman noted. "But one player deserves an extra mention for exceptional effort."

The police nominated Yirmiya Clinton as the MVP of the match. But, best of all, both teams had fun and look forward to a rematch. We thank the constable for organizing the entire event and for taking the time to come to our school to talk to us in health class.

Woods stated that the police team (the "Flatfeet") enjoyed the match immensely and look forward to playing the Ottawa Torah Institute boys again.



Judaic Outreach Programs

March - April 2008

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Alison Caplan, Judaic Administrative Assistant • 613-725-3519

Date	Program	Place	Time
Every 2nd Monday March 3, 17, 31	Beth Y'vrit Hebrew Class Tal Palgi. RSVP Erin Morley	Hosted by SIL Program 613-851-4572	6:30 - 7:30
Wednesdays	Advanced Judaic Studies Adele Horwitz	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:45 - 6:45
Wednesdays	Joys of Judaism Adele Horwitz/Leo Lightstone	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:45 - 7:45
Thursdays	Sing and Play Along Adele Horwitz	842 Broadview	4:00 - 5:00
Thursdays	Yiddishkeit Delights Adele Horwitz	840 Broadview	5:00 - 5:30
Thursdays	Tamir Choir Cantor Benlolo	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:15 - 7:15
Sunday, March 16	Purim RSVP Alison Caplan	Rideau Regional Centre Smiths Falls	11:00 - 3:00
Tuesday, March 18	Baking Hamantaschens Hosted by Talmud Torah: Adele Horwitz	Hillel Academy Kitchen Broadview Entrance	6:45 - 7:45
Thursday, March 20	Megillah Reading and Purim Carnival (Hot Dogs): Leah Smith	Beth Shalom 151 Chapel Street	6:45 - 8:30
Friday, March 28	Community Shabbat RSVP Alison Caplan	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:30 - 7:30
Every 2nd Monday April 14 & 28	Beth Y'vrit Hebrew Class Tal Palgi. RSVP Erin Morley	Hosted by SIL Program 613-851-4572	6:30 - 7:30
Sunday, April 13	Pesach RSVP Alison Caplan	Rideau Regional Centre Smiths Falls	11:00 - 3:00
Thursday, April 24	Tamir Third Seder RSVP Alison Caplan by Monday, April 14	Beth Shalom 151 Chapel Street	5:30 - 8:30

'Small Miracles' author to speak at Jewish Unity Live

By Jeff Scharf

Best-selling author and speaker Yitta Halberstam is coming to Ottawa. The author or co-author of eight books, including the popular *Small Miracles* series, will be the keynote speaker at the Jewish Unity Live (JUL) celebration April 8 at Library and Archives Canada.

There are more than two million copies of the *Small Miracles* series in print and it has been translated into 14 languages.

The series highlights everyday miracles that are often overlooked.

Halberstam is the daughter of Laizer Mandelbaum, a Bobover Chassid rabbi, Holocaust survivor and scion of a famous Chassidic dynasty. She was encouraged to write by her father, later pursued graduate studies in American literature at New York University and taught literature of the Holocaust at Baruch College.

Her work has appeared in more than 50 Anglo/Jewish publications and secular magazines such as *Parade*, *Money*, *Working Woman*, and *New York*. In 1995, she wrote another non-fiction book *Holy Brother: Enchanted Tales and Inspiring Tales about Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach*.

The JUL annual event celebration culmi-



Yitta Halberstam

nates a year of Torah study, involving Jews of all backgrounds and affiliations. Thousands of Jews around North America unite in studying the one thing that speaks to us all and has the power to bring us together – Torah.

Jewish Education through Torah (JET) has organized many learning groups all over the city to learn this year's topic, "The Ten Commandments." Through specially tailored programs and

classes, groups and individuals discover common bonds and revel in the joy and stimulation of classic and contemporary Torah thought, logic and counsel.

JET has been active in the Ottawa Jewish community for more than 15 years. JET has provided meaningful Jewish experiences and education to a cross-section of both affiliated and unaffiliated Jews. Programs first introduced by JET are now part of the fabric of Ottawa's growing and learning community, including Jewish Unity Live.

Everyone is welcome to be a part of Jewish Unity Live, a celebration of learning Torah and of the Jewish community of Ottawa. Information on the Jewish Unity Live main event and classes can be obtained on the JET website, www.jetottawa.com.

JLI expands to second location downtown

Courses and programs offered by the Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) are offered internationally in more than 300 locations and have been attended by almost 75,000 people since JLI's creation in 1998. Each course offered by JLI is synchronized so that the lessons are offered concurrently in all locations, a unique feature that sets JLI apart from other programs and has helped to create a true global learning community.

Locally, the Ottawa Torah Center (OTC), host of the Ottawa JLI chapter, has been offering the JLI courses with Rabbi Menachem Blum at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Hundreds of Ottawans have participated in JLI courses over the past six years.

Now, in an effort to reach out to more people and make the classes even more accessible, a second location for JLI classes has been added downtown at the Capital Hill Hotel and Suites.

The expansion to a second location was made possible by the addition of Rabbi Yisroel Simon to the OTC staff. He moved to Ottawa in January with his family and is expanding OTC's adult educational programming. Rabbi Simon has undergone training at JLI head-

quarters in New York and brings experience in the fields of outreach and education to OTC.

"I'm excited to be able to teach this course. What sets JLI apart from other adult classes is that the courses are top of the line and the thought provoking material covers the most important Jewish topics," said Rabbi Simon.

The initial downtown course has attracted 10 students who take time from their busy work schedules each week to nourish their souls through Torah study.

"It is so great to have a class, so close to my office, where I can study Torah and yet only have to take a one-hour lunch break," said participant Clem Strout.

Beyond Belief, the course currently being offered, is a look into the 13 principles of Jewish faith formulated by Maimonides. Each weekly session also includes a short video presentation about the life of Maimonides.

"It is amazing to be able to delve deeper into these key fundamental aspects of Judaism even if only in a six-week course," added Strout.

For information on OTC's adult programs call Rabbi Simon at 613-843-0497 or visit www.ottawatrahcenter.com.

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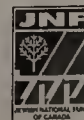
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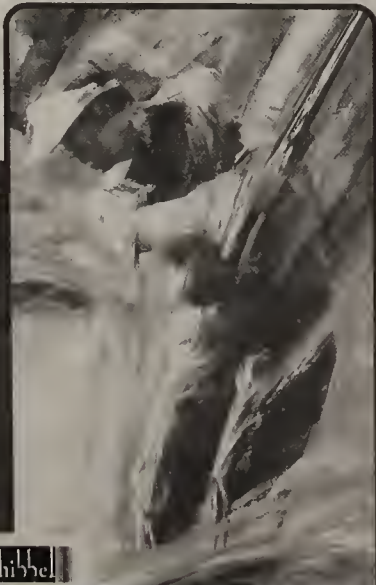
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Enjoy body treatments that vanquish stress, massages, salons services, yoga meditation and tai chi to restore energy, smooth the edges and bolster your resiliency for coping with the other side of life.

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Purim

SOLOWAY JCC

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First Annual Community Wide Purim Shpiel

VERED ISRAEL CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
& THE SOLOWAY JCC PRESENT

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according to

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DOORS OPEN 7:00 PM

Soloway JCC • 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

Queen Esther's
program for
children under 14
Please contact Gail
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glieff@jccottawa.com

For everyone 14 years and older
SOLOWAY JCC MEMBERS & SENIORS \$10/ NON MEMBERS \$20
desserts & refreshments will be served

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE AT THE SOLOWAY JCC
For more information please contact Roslyn Wollock at 613.798.9818 ext. 254

**ACT FAST!!!
ONLY 30 TICKETS LEFT**

May 8, 2008 • 5:00 pm • Civic Centre

OTTAWA CELEBRATES ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

JOIN US FOR OUR BIGGEST CELEBRATION EVER!

- Food Vendors
- Amazing activities for all ages
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- The first 150 children will receive a hockey card signed by Ron Soreanu from the Israeli National Hockey Team

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fabulous Israeli entertainment all evening from California InJoy Orchestra

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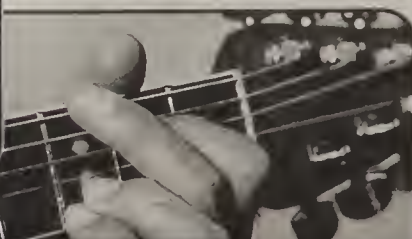
March 25 - May 13 • 8 weeks
Tuesday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm • \$95M / \$110NM
Instructor: Leonard Gerbrandt

CREATIVE DRAWING: BEGINNER /INTERMEDIATE

March 19 - May 7 • 8 weeks
Wednesday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm • \$80M / \$95NM
Instructor: Vanessa Coplan

PAPERCUTTING - JUDAIC ART WORKSHOP

Monday March 10 • 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
\$10M / \$15NM • Instructor: Hyman Cooper



GUITAR

Through this course you will acquire basic chording and strumming skills for accompanying melodies.

ADVANCED BEGINNER

March 9 - April 13 • 6 weeks
Sunday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

GUITAR FROM SCRATCH

April 10 - May 22 • 6 weeks
Thursday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
No class on May 8 • \$70M / \$85NM
Instructor: Steve Geyer

CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW - LEVEL 3

April 1 - May 20 • 8 weeks
Tuesday 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm • \$80M / \$95NM
Instructor: Miriam Litman

SPANISH: ADVANCED BEGINNER

March 20 - May 15 • 8 weeks
Thursday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm • \$95M / \$110NM
Instructor: Miguel Perez • No class May 8

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SPANISH: ADVANCED

March 20 - May 15 • 8 weeks • No class May 8
Thursday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm • \$95M / \$110NM
Instructor: Miguel Perez

MAH JONGG ANYONE?

April 9 - May 7 • 5 weeks
Wednesday 10:00 am - 11:30 am • \$35M / \$45NM
Instructor: Roz Tabachnick

RED HOT BALLROOM - 1 & 2

April 3 - June 5 • 10 weeks • No class May 8
Thursday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
\$130M / \$160NM • Instructor: Yvonne MacLeod

RED HOT BALLROOM - INTERMEDIATE

April 3 - June 5 • 10 weeks • No class May 8
Thursday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$130M / \$160NM • Instructor: Yvonne MacLeod

SWING DANCE

March 26 - April 30 • 6 weeks
Wednesday 7:45 pm - 8:45 pm
\$80M couple / \$95NM couple
Instructor: Bill Jefferery

For April and May program listings watch for the Ottawa Jewish bulletin or contact Roslyn Wollock, Adult Program Manager at 613.798.9818 ext. 254 or rwollock@jccottawa.com

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST 10 YEARS

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Jewish learning that poses the questions but never dictates the answers. According to Jewish tradition the Torah has 70 faces or ways of interpretation. Search for the one that speaks to you.

What is the Florence Melton School?

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Ottawa is part of an international network of schools that seeks to inspire, enlighten and challenge adult learners from all segments of the Jewish community to study Judaism seriously and comprehensively. There are over 60 schools in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia with over 15,000 adult student graduates worldwide.

A project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem providing university-caliber, text-based curriculum The Melton School offers adult learners a serious, two-year program of study. During each of the two years, classes meet once a week for 30 weeks, from September through June. Each session consists of two one-hour lessons with a break for coffee and informal discussion. There are no prerequisites, exams, grades or homework. Graduates of the two-year program receive a Certificate in Jewish Studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Students receive a written curriculum, developed by renowned educators from the Melton Centre for Jewish Education at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The courses explore the essential ideas and reasons underlying Jewish holidays and practices, central beliefs and concepts, important moments in history and contemporary ethical issues.

GRADUATE CLASSES SPRING 2008

KABBALAH: FROM MEDIEVAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT

Instructor: Josée Posen
Mondays March 17 - April 14 • 5 weeks • 7:30pm - 8:30pm • \$70M / \$90NM

THE HISTORY OF THE SIDDUR

Instructor: Rabbi Ely Braun
Thursdays March 20 - May 29 • 10 weeks • 11:00am - noon • No class: April 24
\$130M / \$150 NM

JEWS IN ROMAN TIMES

Instructor: Rubin Friedman
Mondays March 10 - May 26 • 10 weeks • 7:30pm - 9:00pm
No class: April 21, May 19 • \$130M / \$150NM

THE ORIGINS OF THE JEWS

Instructor: Rubin Friedman
Wednesdays, April 2 - May 28 • 8 weeks • 11:00am - noon • No class: April 23
\$100M / \$130NM

THE PROCESS OF JEWISH LAW

Instructor: Rabbi Steven Garten
Wednesdays, April 30 - June 4 • 6 weeks • 9:30am - 11:00am • \$130M / \$150NM

HEALTH & FITNESS • SPRING 2008

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PLYOMETRIC SPORTS CONDITIONING

Improve muscle endurance, balance, leg power, vertical jump and coordination to become a better overall athlete with this energizing class for teens looking to improve their conditioning for any sport.

April 7 • June 2 • 7 weeks • Monday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm • Age 13+
Instructor: Ryan Armitage • No class: April 21, May 19



NEW! YOGA WITH BABES

April 7 • June 16 • 9 weeks
Monday 9:30 am - 10:30 am
No Classes: April 21 and June 9
Instructor: Tamera Dion

NEW! AQUAFIT WITH BABES

April 2 • May 28 • 9 weeks
Wednesday 10:30 am - 11:15 am
Instructor: Sandra Parmelee



NORDIC WALKING

Spring: April 8 • May 13 • 6 weeks
Spring: April 7 • May 12 • 5 weeks
Instructor: Anna Ekstrandh

NEW! GROUP PERSONAL TRAINING

Exercise smarter and get results. Enjoy the benefits of personal training for a shared cost in a group training session. Get more out of your workouts and more for your money! Maximum: 7 participants.

April 7 • June 16 • 8 weeks • Monday 11:30 am - 12:15 pm • Age 16+
Instructor: Julie Nott • No Class: April 21, May 19, June 9

PILATES

INTRODUCTION TO PILATES

Spring: April 7 • June 30 • 11 weeks
Monday 9:15 am - 10:15 am • No class: April 21 & June 9
or Spring: April 1 • June 24 • 12 weeks
Tuesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm • No Class: June 10
Instructor: Vanessa Novini AM, April Dickson PM

INTERMEDIATE PILATES

Spring: April 1 • June 24 • 12 weeks
Tuesday 9:15 am - 10:15 am • No Class: June 10
or Spring: April 7 • June 30 • 11 weeks
Monday 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm • No Class: April 21, June 9 • Age 16+
Instructor: Vanessa Novini AM, Carolyn Franklin PM

ADVANCED PILATES

Spring: April 4 • June 27 • 13 weeks • Friday 9:05 am - 10:05 am
or Spring: April 3 • June 26 • 13 weeks • Age 16+
Instructor: Maddalena Rispoli AM, April Dickson PM

YOGILATES

Spring: April 3 • June 26 • 13 weeks • Thursday 9:15 am - 10:15 am
Instructor: Tamera Dion

YOGA

NEW! YOUNG ADULT YOGA

Spring: April 7 • June 30 • 11 weeks • Monday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm • Age 18+
No Class: April 21, June 9 • Instructor: Tamera Dion

HATHA YOGA

Spring: April 2 • June 25 • 13 weeks
Wednesday 9:30 am - 10:30 am or 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm • Age 16+
Instructor: BJ Porter AM

POWER YOGA

Spring: April 7 • June 30 • 11 weeks • Monday 9:30 am - 10:30 am • Age 16+
Instructor: Spring BJ Porter • No Class: April 21, June 9

GENTLE YOGA

April 1 • June 26 • 13 weeks • Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 am - 10:15 am
No Class: June 10
April 7 • June 30 • 10 weeks • Monday 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm
No Class: April 21, June 9
April 3 • June 26 • 13 weeks • Thursday 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm
Age 16+ • Instructor: Katherine Shapiro Moss and Richard Brouillet



HEARTWISE EXERCISE PROGRAMS

The Soloway JCC and The University of Ottawa Heart Institute have teamed up to offer safe and effective exercise programs for people with cardiac disease. Exercise programs that carry the Heart Wise logo are most suitable for those with cardiac disease or those who may want to assure themselves that the programs are heart friendly. We are proud to offer Vitality Plus, Functional Fitness, Aquawaves, After Work Energizer, Movement Improvement and Post Stroke Aquafit all of which meet the Heart Wise criteria.

All Heart Wise Exercise programs:

- Provide health screening for all participants
- Accept participants with a known history of cardiac disease (with a physician's approval)
- Allow participants to exercise at low intensity and have progressive options to increase intensity
- Incorporate and encourage warm up, cool down and self monitoring
- Encourage regular, daily aerobic exercise
- All programs must have an emergency plan that is documented and known to all leaders, including current CPR certification, phone access to EMS and the presence of an Automatic External Defibrillator.



INCLUDED IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP

- Morning and Evening Aquafit Classes
- Group Fitness / Aerobics Classes:
Ab-solutely, absolutely rock-bottom, cardioskip, powerpump, bodypump, fast-fit and more!

SPINFIT CLASSES FOR ALL LEVELS • FROM 6:15 AM - 7:30 PM

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

A minute, a call, a visit ... You make the difference

• **Have a car and a free moment?** We are seeking drivers to transport seniors to and from medical appointments; special events and social opportunities. Help break isolation by escorting a senior to a special event. It could be fun.

• **Special talent?** Gardening, reflexology, aromatherapy ... come share with a seniors group what you know about your hobby or talent.

• **Kosher Meals on Wheels:** Drivers who can fill in on short notice are needed. We drive meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Can you help this winter?

• **TeleShalom:** We are seeking volunteers to place daily calls to seniors. This is something you can do from the comfort of your home and will only take a little time.

• **Friendly visiting:** Many seniors could use a friendly smile and chat over a cup of coffee. Can you help break isolation for a senior?

Visits to seniors in long-term care homes: Many of our seniors are living in long-term care facilities. They would benefit from a visit, once a week, every other week or once a month.

• **Miriam's Well:** The monthly fruits and vegetables program needs more people to help pack groceries. No grocery experience needed.

• **Craft club:** Can you help a few seniors work on an art project? Let us know.

ESL and Homework Club volunteers needed: We are seeking volunteers to assist new Canadians with their English and to help out with the homework club at the Alta Vista library. If you are interested, let us know.

Deborah is waiting to hear from you at 613-722-2225, ext. 327.

THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY HILLEL LODGE

Volunteers needed for ...

• **Cashiers** needed to help in the café at lunch (11:45 am to 1:30 pm Monday – Friday)

• **Student Special:** *Your gain is our gain:* Do your community hours helping our residents! Daily or weekly, at a time that suits you! *University Students welcome* (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment).

• **Culture maven?** Accompany our residents to museums, concerts and plays! (Wednesday and Thursday afternoons)

• **Tuesday Special:** Enjoy our special events every week at @2:15 pm!

• **Shopping experts?** *Have Fun!* Accompany residents to shopping at a mall (Monday mornings!)

• **Special mitzvah anyone?** Bring a resident to Shabbos services (Saturdays at 9:15 am) and enjoy the fantastic Oneg with friends! Great cholent!

To inquire further, please call 613-728-3900 ext. 191 or email judithw@hillel-ltc.com

Students welcome (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment)

Two authors' irreverent and humorous look at being Jewish

Tzuris. That seems to be our lot – trouble, problems, the wrath of Hashem. Obsessing about it seems to be our predilection. And, while we Jews probably invented the word 'guilt,' we're masters at using humour to deal with it: satiric, ironic, dark or otherwise.

Foreskin's Lament: A Memoir

By Shalom Auslander

Riverhead Books/Penguin

Hardcover, 2007

310 pages

No wonder Shalom Auslander is riddled with angst. He grew up in an ultra-Orthodox home in Monsey, New York, with a brutish father who had anger management problems and was physically abusive with his kids (usually every *erev Shabbos* after drinking too much Manischewitz). Also, he attended a yeshiva where the teachers informed students that the Jews brought the Holocaust upon themselves as punishment for their assimilating ways, and where rules were rigid and mercy non-existent.

This very funny, yet terribly poignant, especially irreverent – even crude – book is Auslander's recounting of (or perhaps accounting for) his impossible 30-odd-year struggle with a terrifying God.

Like Jonathan Garfinkel (*Ambivalence* was reviewed recently in this column), and like many questioning Jews, Auslander finds God to be a harsh and contradictory judge, meting out punishment mercilessly and inconsistently. "Mr. Holocaust" is a trickster with a sardonic sense of humour. Heck, doesn't God make Moses wander in the desert for 40 years only to have him die before he reaches the Promised Land? And all because of one sin?

Given that Auslander is not above sinning himself, and excessively at that, he worries constantly that he will incur God's wrath or that God will smite those he loves to spite him.

The author's sinning predilection begins at an early age. When Rabbi Goldfinger tells his class of eight-year-olds that "until the age of thirteen, all of a boy's sins are ascribed to his father," Auslander is ecstatic. "I could sin so much that Hashem would have to kill my father."

He goes home that Shabbat night, eats a drumstick and washes it down with milk, touches himself in his nether-parts a few times and flicks the lights on and off in his bedroom.

He's on a sinning roll that becomes habit-forming and a way of flaunting God's terrible power. World calamity was proof enough of it: suicide bombings, Darfur massacres, Shi-ites killing Sunnis, Afghans killing Pakistanis.

Auslander spends his youth making bargains with God; negotiating for this, doing penance for that. His is a sad, angry and dark view of religious belief. God, in his eyes, takes great enjoyment in dashing people's hopes. There was no escaping God's outrage and God had a lot to be angry about when it came to the sinful Auslander.

Finally, Auslander, at the age of 30-something, decides that maybe he will just forget about God and thereby lessen His power.

"Maybe I couldn't run from him ... but perhaps ... I could spoil his sport with simple acquiescence, blithely accepting whatever fate He chose for me ... no worrying, no praying, no beseeching, no obsessing. No more bribes, no more payoffs, no more house of worship backroom deals ... Not atheism; resignation."



Book Beat

Kinneret Globerman

Whatever your feelings on reading this book – some of you will be angered by it, others will find it a funny rant, while still others will be touched by the author's frenzied struggle with "The Man" – Auslander is certainly a strong voice for the alienated Jew.

Yes, But Is It Good for the Jews?

By Jonny Geller

Bloomsbury/Raincoast Books

Hardcover, 2006

215 pages

"Is it good for the Jews?" is a phrase we're all probably familiar with. A political candidate gets into office, and we wonder. Some white collar hot shot gets caught siphoning off millions from his employment, and we worry.

Literary agent Jonny Geller takes this eternal question and applies it, very irreverently, to all kinds of things: from movie stars and films, to concepts, music, mega-organizations, even vacation spots.

Written as an index from a to z, this book starts out with a brief introduction on the mathematical formula Geller has developed and applied to all of the entries in his book. His "Judological Institute of Spiritual Mathematics" believes in openness and shuns secrecy. "*Less Opus Dei, more Och 'n' Vey*," as he puts it.

Following a multiple choice quiz, which can tell you just how Jewish you are, the book continues with an explanation of Geller's mathematical formula and the good/bad-for-the-Jews quotient applied to all of the book's entries: "Anti-Semitic Potential (otherwise known as Backlash) + Impact on the World x The J-Factor = Tzuris."

Then, beginning with a, for alcohol, and ending at z, for zoölatry (the worship of one's pet), Geller discusses each entry and rates them using his formula. So, for example, William Mark Felt (a.k.a. Deep Throat, the *Washington Post* informant during the Watergate affair) was not good for the Jews, while actress Scarlett Johansson is. Venezuela is a bad vacation spot for the Jews; Bahrain is a good one. You get the drift.

This book will either highly offend or amuse.

At the Greenberg Families Library:

The film series continues with *Yiddish Soul* on Sunday, March 23 at 2:00 pm. This charming film documents the revival and popularity of Yiddish and Klezmer music in Europe and takes viewers on a musical tour of performances by artists across Europe. English subtitles are provided for the Yiddish lyrics. The program is open to all Soloway JCC and Greenberg Families Library members. For more information, call the library at 613-798-9818, ext. 245.

Subscription about to lapse? RENEW TODAY!
Call Rhoda Saslove-Miller 613-798-4696, ext. 256

Machines are like pets with minds of their own

I've been sitting in front of the computer for a few hours trying to print all the documents I need and it has gradually dawned on me that, in reality, machines are like animals that we occasionally control. How else can we explain it?

My printer, my photocopier and my fax machine are like dogs.

When they are happy and well fed with toner, they seem to swallow everything I send their way. They process it and produce the final product almost playfully, which I then scoop with relaxed fingers from the output tray. Their lights light up, the air blows and they almost seem to smile as the motor whirrs and the paper flies through.

But they need constant care and grooming.

When they're unhappy, the machines chew up everything and spit it out. Sometimes, they grab hold of a piece of paper, mangle it and hold it tight. You have to cajole them, pet their removable trays and slide them in - oh so slowly - in order not to disturb the sleeping beast. As the paper slowly mashes in their teeth, I can hear a growl coming from the depths.

Or perhaps that is me reacting to the 15th "blocked pathway" in a row. And every time that happens, I have to perform major surgery: pull the handles, turn the knobs and gradually pull on loose sheets. It's almost like dealing with a sick puppy.

My television set and computer are more like felines.

They don't actually seem to care whether I am around. All they want is for me to turn them on. Then I might as well go upstairs and read a book. They'll just keep on going and doing their own thing, thank you very much. Some-



Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

times when I turn them off, it is as if they are still watching with one red or green glowing eye. Apparently they could pounce at any moment. The computer in particular is very picky and only responds to commands on alternate days.

And the computer loves playing with the mouse. It will tease the mouse as if letting it run free and suddenly refuse to recognize its input unless I put my whole weight on it as I try to exit the file.

In a clever manoeuvre, the computer tricks me and suddenly overrides my motion. So instead of exiting, I seem to have deleted what I was writing. Sometimes I try petting it and it responds when no one is looking.

The minute I actually need something urgently, of course, it malfunctions. Fatal error! Of course, that's the thing about machines and animals. You never know when they'll turn on you.

Cars are all female. They must be. Every time I take it into my old garage, the mechanic asks, "How's she runnin' today?"

"She's runnin' pretty good," I say, "but I think she needs some oil and a lube job."

But do women call their cars "he?"

"How's he doin' this week?"

"He's all right, but I'm worried about his spare tire." Hmmm. This is beginning to sound familiar.

Of course, the worst are those small rodents, the cell phones.

They scurry all over you and end up in every pocket you can't reach, especially when they start ringing. And they are a playful lot.

My cell phone, in particular, has a habit of wriggling out of my hand while I am driving and landing between my legs. I stop the car to retrieve it, but, inevitably, that's when a bus pulls up beside me and all the passengers look down at me in amusement, shock and horror.

Mothers cover their children's faces as I try to point to my crotch and my ear simultaneously to try and explain. I'm not sure what message they get from that but, as you have no doubt guessed, by the time I find the phone, it stops ringing.

So, remember to be kind to your technological friends. It'll make you feel good inside, even if it has no practical effect.

Would you like to advertise in the

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin?

**Contact Rhoda Saslove-Miller
613-798-4696, ext. 256**

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Have you been searching for a nice Chuppah at a reasonable cost? Well look no further!!

This is a one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted Chuppah.

Price includes delivery, setup, take-away and a white canopy.

NOTE:

The flowers and tulle shown in the picture are not included.

\$350

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YUK YUK'S ON TOUR

Temple Israel's Comedy Night
(just in time for Purim!)

DATE: Tuesday, March 18

Emcee: Phil Shuchat & featuring

Joey Elias



8 times "Just For Laughs" comedian

WHERE: Temple Israel

1301 Prince of Wales Drive

TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 pm

TICKETS: \$36

RSVP: Debbie Goldstein

613 226-5435 or dkg501951@yahoo.ca

FROM THE WORLD'S LARGEST CHAIN OF COMEDY CLUBS

Tips for a successful first date

If you're seeking the special someone with whom to spend the rest of your life, a successful first date is one where you enjoy yourself and you're able to assess the person well enough to know whether a second date is worth your time and emotional investment.

Part 1: Setting the stage for a successful first date

Expect to have a good time; don't expect to meet your soul mate. This will reduce the pressure, and you'll be more relaxed and perform better. A little nervousness is normal and healthy. It means you ascribe a lot of importance to dating. Many people are overly self-conscious on their first date, and focus on trying to impress the guy or girl. The trick is to be other-conscious, to divert your focus on assessing the other person.

Besides this reframing, try slowing down your speech and avoiding chatter just to fill "empty moments." Feeling confident and knowing yourself well are big pluses in dating. If you feel insecure, you may not be ready yet for serious dating. Try to work on gaining more self-knowledge and building your self-esteem.

Choose your meeting place carefully. Neither a rock concert (where you can't carry on a conversation without yelling) nor a public library (where you have to whisper) is



Dating 101

Jack Botwinik

ideal. Avoid going to a movie, as you want to get to know your date, not the movie. Select a place where you can talk comfortably and get to know each other.

Ensure your safety. Meet at an open place with a lot of people milling about, such as a coffee shop or a museum, preferably a place you've both been to and like. This will increase the chance that you and/or your date will be more relaxed and feel safe in each other's company. It's not necessary for a guy to pick up a girl, especially if she's concerned about being alone with someone she doesn't yet know well. The two of you can just meet at the predetermined location. Ensure, however, that it's not a place where you're likely to encounter people you know.

Dress to impress, but make sure it's respectable and appropriate for the setting. How you dress speaks volumes

about your values, your culture, your self-image and possibly your socio-economic status. You should wear something that makes you feel fabulous about yourself, communicates openness and confidence, is not flashy or extravagant and is appropriate for the place you're meeting at. Also, minimize physical contact. It will help ensure that your assessment of the other is as objective as possible.

Don't divulge too much private information. You can scare the person away or turn him off if you tell him intimate details, your deepest fears and innermost thoughts on the first date. He doesn't yet know the entire you, and may not be able to put what you tell him into proper perspective. Also, if the relationship doesn't work out, you'll regret that someone is walking around with all this confidential information about you.

So, what to talk about? While some small talk is essential, make sure you also cover things that are important to each of you.

In my next column, I will share with you tips for doing this as well as factors to consider in deciding whether or not a second date is worth pursuing.

Jack Botwinik is the author of *Chicken Soup with Chopsticks: A Jew's Struggle for Truth in an Interfaith Relationship*. Jack can be reached via his Author Page at www.PaperSpider.Net.

Support for human rights Lantos's enduring legacy

Over the past 60 years, the U.S. Congress has often been more steadfast and reflective of the positive attitude the American public has toward Israel than have several American presidents.

I am reminded of this by the recent death, at 80, of Congressman Tom Lantos (who represented a suburban San

Francisco district), the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

Lantos had an unimpeachable reputation as a defender of human rights, at home and abroad. Since the 2006 elections, he had been the powerful chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. A liberal Democrat on domestic and social-economic issues, he allied with Republicans on many foreign policy and security issues, especially those concerning Israel and the Middle East.

He was elected to Congress for 13 terms in two districts (because of redistribution) and, except for his first election, by very large margins in every election.

As a youngster, Lantos had joined the Hungarian resistance against the Nazis, was captured and sent to a prison camp. He escaped and was one of the Hungarian Jews protected by the Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg. He never forgot his early experiences nor ceased to apply them to the realistic appraisal and principled advocacy of current affairs.

In recent years, he stated that he had fought both of the major totalitarian movements of the 20th century, Nazism and Communism. For Lantos, Islamist terrorism was the same sort of danger and had to be resisted as well.

He was one of the early supporters of President George W. Bush's decision to invade Saddam Hussein's Iraq, but, since 2006, had been more critical of the way in which the war was being conducted. Recently, he emphasized the dangers in Afghanistan. During a discussion with a visiting delegation of Dutch parliamentarians, he made headlines by asserting that there had been more European criticism of Guantanamo than of Auschwitz during the Second World War.

Some examples of Lantos's leadership role in support of Israel are given in his Wikipedia biography and in the various obituary articles. Following the 2007 war against Hezbollah, Lantos stated, while at a meeting at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, he would hold up U.S. foreign aid to the Lebanese government until the Lebanese acted to send their



Global Shtetl The Jewish Internet

Saul Silverman

army to take responsibility for the border areas infested by the Hezbollah terrorists. He also led congressional opposition to support for the Egyptian military, on the grounds that they have not played a sufficient role in blocking arms smuggling to the Hamas terrorists in Gaza.

Lantos was a target for anti-Israel polemics and for the conspiracy theorists that saw congressional support for Israel as a product of a modern version of the Elders of Zion canard. But his personal reputation, based on his equally strong advocacy for such domestic issues as health care reform, environmentalism and support for human rights (including the rights of women – he received a 95 per cent approval rating for 2005-2006 from the National Organization for Women, with 91 per cent from the American Civil Liberties Union and 100 per cent from the AFL-CIO) provided a supportive context for his forthright decisions in foreign affairs.

Perhaps his most enduring legacy is his consistent, wide-ranging support for international human rights. Early in his political career, he was one of the initiators of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. He supported the human rights struggle in Tibet, the rights of Christians in Muslim countries and of the victims of oppression in Darfur.

The tributes to Lantos quite rightly emphasized these positions as hallmarks of his integrity and moral consistency.

Websites

AP obituary AP: tinyurl.com/2z3d80

Washington Post obituary: tinyurl.com/2bmsfp

Ha'aretz obituary: tinyurl.com/2zll54

Wikipedia biography: tinyurl.com/lyvz3uz

Steve Clemons column suggesting Lantos was shifting his position on the Israel-Palestinian peace process: tinyurl.com/2cnv3x

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Continued on page 33

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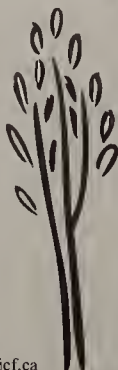
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I wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to my family and friends for their donations and messages of comfort during my recent illness.

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Parmesan Oven Baked Fries

The best potatoes for these are large baking potatoes, the ones with the brown skin. Do not use the imitation Parmesan cheese that you find in the green tin for these. You will ruin the fries.

Serves 4

- 3 large egg whites
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3 large baking potatoes (at least 8 ounces each), washed but not peeled
- 1 1/4 cups freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. In a wide shallow bowl, whisk egg whites with 1 teaspoon salt until frothy. Cut each potato into 6 wedges. Add potatoes to egg whites and turn to coat.

One at a time, lift potato wedges out of egg whites and shake off excess. Working over a plate, sprinkle with Parmesan cheese until coated. Do not shake off excess. Place coated fries on a parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake, without turning, until the potatoes are fork tender and golden brown, about 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.



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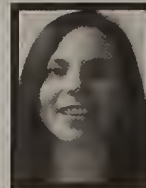
I own a deep fat fryer. I bought it in December 1999 to use for a millennium New Year's Eve party I was hosting at my house. My mom, siblings, their spouses and all their kids came in from Toronto to celebrate welcoming the new century together.

Many people I know celebrated with champagne and caviar. The Feingold family's idea of letting loose and celebrating is having real (deep-fried) French fries.

We made paper cones to serve them in and had the kids decorate the cones with feathers, sequins and glitter. We offered three kinds of vinegar, regular and spicy ketchup as well as flavoured mayonnaises to dip the fries in. It was so yummy.

Since then, I drag the deep fryer out about once a year to make fries. I love them, but it's not exactly the healthiest way to eat. Plus, cleaning the fryer is quite a production. Mostly I make oven-baked fries. I learned an interesting technique a few years ago from a cookbook called *In the Kitchen With Rosie*.

Rosie Daley was Oprah's personal chef. She made oven-baked fries without any added fat. Her trick for making them crispy is to coat them in lightly beaten egg whites before baking. Then, a few months ago, I discovered that Martha Stewart had taken that recipe and elevated it to the next level with the addition of freshly grated parmesan cheese sprinkled on the egg-white-coated fries. While Steve of the S&G Fries chip



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

wagon on Carling has nothing to worry about, for oven-baked fries, these are pretty fantastic!

Flushed with success at oven-baked fries, I wondered what other traditional fried foods would translate well to oven baking. My daughter and I had dinner at The Works restaurant recently. We ordered their "tower of rings." They brought to the table a huge order of onion rings stacked on a metal spike. It was served with a chipotle mayonnaise dipping sauce.

When I got home that night, I had an e-mail update from *cooksillustrated.com*. One of their feature recipes was oven-fried onion rings. Instead of using a traditional batter, these were dipped in a mixture of crushed kettle-cooked potato chips and saltine crackers. I had to try them. We had them for dinner and they were really delicious. Admittedly, a coating of potato chips does not qualify these as healthy, but still, they are better for you than deep-fried and, as an occasional treat, they are worth it.

Oven-Fried Onion Rings

Makes 24 rings, serving 4 to 6.

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 cup buttermilk, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 30 Saltine crackers
- 4 cups Kettle Brand Krinkle Cut Potato Chips
- 2 large yellow onions, cut into 1/2 inch thick rounds
- 6 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup light mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon chipotle chili powder

Adjust oven racks to lower-middle and upper-middle positions and heat oven to 450 degrees. Place 1/2 cup flour in shallow baking dish. Set aside. Beat eggs and buttermilk together in medium bowl. Whisk remaining 1/2 cup flour, cayenne, salt and pepper into buttermilk mixture. Pulse saltines and chips together in food processor until finely ground and place in separate shallow baking dish.

Pull apart rings in each round, discarding any that are less than 2 inches in diameter. Working one at a time, dredge each onion ring in flour, shaking off excess. Using a fork, dip in buttermilk mixture, allowing excess to drip back into bowl, then drop into crumb coating, turning ring to coat evenly. Transfer to large plate and repeat with remaining onion rings.

Pour 3 tablespoons oil onto each of two rimmed baking sheets. Place in oven and heat until just smoking, about 8 minutes. Carefully tilt heated sheets to coat evenly with oil, and then arrange onion rings on sheets. Bake, flipping onion rings and switching and rotating position of baking sheets halfway through baking, until golden brown on both sides, about 15 minutes. Transfer onion rings to paper towel-lined plates to drain briefly. Serve immediately, with chipotle mayonnaise, made by mixing together mayo and chipotle chili powder.

Oven-fried onion rings can be breaded in advance and refrigerated for up to an hour. Let them sit at room temperature for 30 minutes before baking. If baked straight from the fridge, the onions will not soften properly and will remain crunchy.



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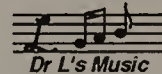
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New takes on Bible story picture books

Years ago, Bible story picture books were mostly straight forward, simplified versions of Bible stories told in fresh, lyrical voices. That style of retelling is no longer the norm. Today's Bible story picture books are usually full of extra material. Sometimes that material is derived from *midrashim* or rabbinic interpretations. Sometimes it's the author's way of making the story both playful and more obviously relevant for young children.

These two books are delightful examples of that new take on Bible story picture books.

Tara's Flight

By Ruth Eitzen

Illustrated by Allan Eitzen

Boyd Mills Press 2008

Unpaged. Ages 3 - 7

Tara's Flight is the story of Noah and the ark with added dimensions. Tara is a white dove. Her name in the title means that the important messages in this book relate both to the symbolism of the dove in the Bible story and the cultural association of white doves with peace.

In the Bible story, when the 40 days and nights of rain are over and the waters have been receding, Noah sends out the dove to discover whether or not it is safe to leave the ark and return home. In effect, the dove is a messenger. If it returns to the ark, they must stay aboard. If it does not return, humans and creatures can go home.

In *Tara's Flight*, Tara is both a messenger and a playmate for Noah's grandson, Aram, during the time Noah is building the ark when Aram's friends are making fun of his grandfather. Tara continues in these roles after the flood and after everyone has returned home.

As Tara's friend, Aram not only looks after Tara on the ark, he also looks after all the other birds. In this context, the emphasis is on Tara's quiet dignity and trust in Aram. When the rain stops and the rainbow appears, Tara, too, is on deck 'to see and hear God's promise. At the appropriate time, Noah and Aram put their trust in Tara, repeatedly sending the dove to check on conditions at home.



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

Long after Noah and his extended family have disbursed to their various homes, Tara remains their trusted messenger. The white dove brings news to Noah and Aram that their far-flung family is well and, by its sighting, encourages children everywhere to hope that "peace is on the way."

Told with lyrical gentleness and joy, *Tara's Flight* is a welcome addition to the long list of picture books that tell the story of Noah and the ark. Its illustrations, especially the numerous paintings of birds, are glorious and the pictures of rain, lightening and the flood, though dark, are not frightening. In all, a lovely tale of friendship and trust and a beguiling take on an old favourite.

Sarah Laughs

By Jacqueline Jules

Illustrated by Natascia Ugliano

Kar-Ben Publishing 2008

Unpaged Ages 5 - 9

The second book in Kar-Ben's new series of Bible stories for young children, *Sarah Laughs*, is the story of the birth of Isaac. Its new take is twofold. First, the focus is very much on Sarah, from her days as a teen to her becoming a mother in old age. Second, it provides a clear explanation of why Sarah would give her son a name that means laughter.

We are told that Sarah was an exceptionally beautiful, graceful girl whose laugh "made the whole world clap hands with joy." When she married Abraham, she accepted his "one God" and encouraged him to do whatever that God requested of him. As the years went by, however, Sarah changed.



By Jacqueline Jules;
illustrated by Natascia Ugliano

She continued to believe in God and in acting kindly towards others, but she laughed less often until she stopped laughing. Why? Because Sarah despaired at not being a mother even though God had promised Abraham that his "children's children would be as many as the stars in the sky."

Small wonder, then, that when a very old Sarah overheard three strangers telling Abraham she would bear a child within the year, Sarah laughed in disbelief. But that disbelieving laugh became joyous when she did, indeed, have a child. Sarah's laughter and Isaac's name, then, are her affirmation that God remembers and keeps promises.

Bright, charming illustrations blend beautifully with this very human retelling of the birth of Isaac. They add a sense of place, time and character that girls especially will find interesting and inspiring. *Sarah Laughs* is a "clap with joy" winner!

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WHAT'S GOING ON

March 10 to 23, 2008

For a detailed listing
visit www.jewishottawa.org



WEEKLY EVENTS

TUESDAYS

Israeli Folkdancing, no experience or partner necessary, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-729-2090.

THURSDAYS

Topics In Modern Jewish History, sponsored by the Ottawa College of Jewish Studies, weekly seminars with Rabbi Ely Braun, 12:15 pm. Info: 613-261-2498.



CANDLELIGHTING

BEFORE

Mar 14 ☆ 6:50 pm
Mar 21 ☆ 6:59 pm

MONDAY MARCH 10

The Ten Commandments, sponsored by Jewish Education Through Torah (JET), Gowlings, 160 Elgin Street, 26th Floor, noon. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 229.

TUESDAY MARCH 11

Stitch un Kvell, sponsored by Jewish Family Services, a seniors' craft group, 2255 Carling Avenue, Suite 301, 10:00 am. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 325.

SUNDAY MARCH 16

"A Rabbi Faces Old Age: How a Pioneer of Reform Judaism Learned to Cope with Change," lecture by Christopher Friedrichs, sponsored by Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, Carleton University, and Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, 10:00 am. Info: 613-520-2600, ext. 2886.
Purim Shpiel, according to

the Beach Boys, 7:00 pm. Information: 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

TUESDAY MARCH 18

Yuk Yuk's on Tour Comedy Night, sponsored by Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-226-5435.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19

Let's Do Lunch, sponsored by Jewish Family Services monthly seniors' kosher luncheon and entertainment. Artist Fortunée Shugar, Agudath Israel Synagogue, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-728-3501.

"Rabbis, Women and the Making of Modern Judaism in 19th Century Germany," lecture by Benjamin M. Baader, Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, Carleton University, Loeb Building, Room C164, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-520-2600, ext. 2886.
Shtetlmi, klezmer concert, National Arts Centre, Fourth Stage,

sponsored by Ottawa Folk Festival, 7:30 pm. Tickets: 613-755-1111.

THURSDAY MARCH 20

'Purim International' OTC Purim party, co-sponsored by JFS, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-823-0886.
Jetsetters Game Night and Masquerade, Jewish Education Through Torah (JET), 7:45 Megillah, 8:45 party begins, Victoria Park Suites Hotel, 377 O'Connor Avenue. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 247.

SUNDAY MARCH 23

Movie: *Yiddish Soul*, the revival and popularity of Yiddish and Klezmer music in Europe, 2:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 245.
Mini-course: *A Glimpse Into Yiddish Culture in Canada from 1900 to Today*. This first in a three-week session focuses on Yiddish Immigration Ideologies and the Arts, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

COMING SOON

MONDAY, MARCH 24

New date: Daniel Pipes, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre, National Arts Centre, Panorama Room, 7:00 pm.
RSVP: 1-866-864-9735, ext. 29.

MARCH 26-30

"Fiddler on the Roof," performed by the Greely Players, Greely Community Centre, 1448 Meadow Drive, Greely. Info: 613-821-4107.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament, sponsored by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 225.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Hillel-arious Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night, sponsored by Hillel Academy, Centrepoinle Chamber, Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepoinle Drive, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-722-0800

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Treadmill, sponsored by Active Jewish Adults 50+, one-woman comedy show about survival and hope, 1:30 pm. Info: 613-594-3380.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Benita Siemiatycki, calendar coordinator at 613-798-4696 ext. 227. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-4695 or email to bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com.



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Harold (Hershey) Dermer, Montreal
(father of Mark Dermer)
Fanny Diamond
Joan Langsner
Joney Pairan-Pinke
Sylvia Schneiderman, Montreal
(mother of Stephen Schneiderman)

Burt Segal

Louis Solomon, Montreal
(father of Carolyn Appotive)

Hy Stoller
Vivian Taller

May their memory be a blessing always.

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There is no charge.

For a listing in this column, please call Bev Glube,
613-798-4696, ext. 274. Voice mail is available.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

MARCH 19 FOR APRIL 7

APRIL 2 FOR APRIL 21

APRIL 16 FOR MAY 5

APRIL 30 FOR MAY 19

MAY 28 FOR JUNE 16

JULY 2 FOR JULY 21

AUGUST 6 FOR AUGUST 25